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TAOS

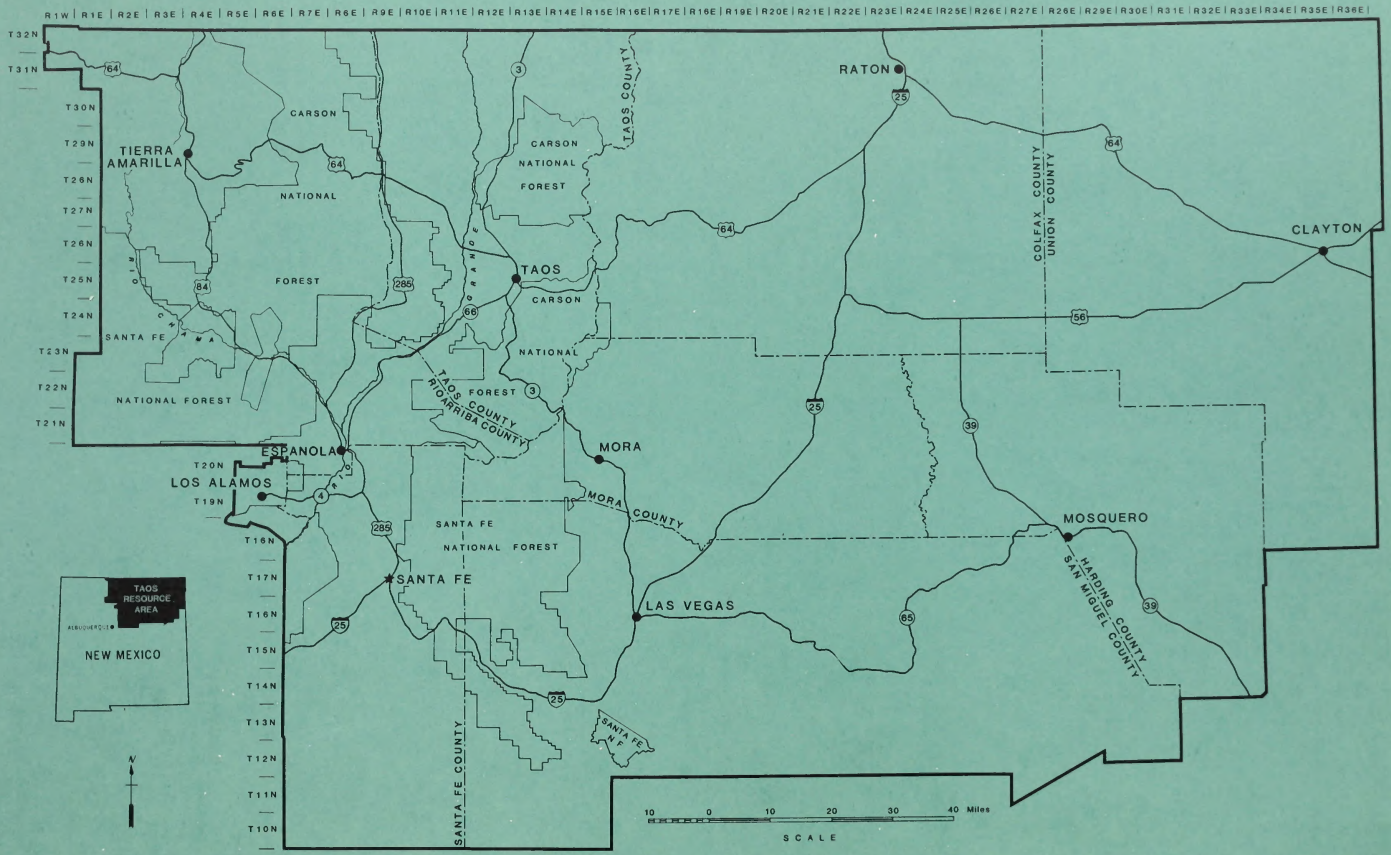
Resource Management Plan

OCTOBER 1988

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
TAOS RESOURCE AREA

BLM-NM-PT-88-021-4410

TAOS RESOURCE AREA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Taos

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

OCTOBER 1988

PREPARED BY:
US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

LARRY WOODARD
State Director
New Mexico State Office

BOB DALE
District Manager
Albuquerque District

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Reader's Guide

READER'S GUIDE

The Taos Resource Management Plan (RMP) represents the work of many Bureau employees and members of the public over the past four years. The intent is to provide general management direction for public lands in the Taos RA over the next 10-20 years and guide all land and resource actions to achieve plan decisions.

Section 1, Introduction, provides background information on the planning area, the planning process, the planning issues, public involvement, and consistency with other plans.

Section 2, Management Program, describes the management philosophy for administering public lands in the Resource Area and identifies the planning decisions. Each resource program is then profiled through a written program objective, description of the program, program guidance, and land allocations, if applicable. Program decisions are identified under the Guidance heading including designations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and off-road vehicles.

Section 3, Plan Implementation and Monitoring, describes the procedure through which the RMP will be implemented and monitoried to track decision implementation.

Section 4, Plan Maintenance and Evaluation, describes how the RMP will be managed to extend its usefulneness by updating the text with new information. Procedures are also identified for evaluating how effective plan implementation is in accomplishing plan decisions. Forms are included in this section to be used in facilitating the tracking process.

Section 5, Special Management Areas (SMAs), identifies existing designations and areas designated through planning. Each narrative provides a description of the SMA, primary management goals and management prescriptions as well as a corresponding location map. Some SMAs are not specifically shown due to the sensitive nature of resource values in the area.

Section 6, Land Ownership Adjustments and Easement Acquisitions. identifies state and private land acquisition priorities, public land parcels for disposal, withdrawal reviews, and easement acquisition needs.

Section 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Record of Decision in the Toas Resource Management Plan was sigend July 26, 1988 and sets in motion the decisions and management prescriptions which address the unusual values found in the Taos Resource Area. The Taos Resource Management Plan (RMP) has been prepared to provide a comprehensive framework for managing the public lands and for allocating resources during the next 10 to 20 years using the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The RMP establishes areas for limited, restricted, or exclusive uses, levels of production, allowable resource uses, resource condition objectives, program constraints, and general management direction.

This Resource Management Plan sets forth the land use decisions, terms and conditions for guiding and controlling future management actions on public lands in the Taos Resource Area. All uses and activities in the Resource Area must conform with the decisions, terms and conditions as described herein. The Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 for comprehensive land use planning for public lands. The management objectives and philosophies developed in this plan will be applied only to the public surface and/or mineral estate.

In addition, court-ordered and statutory requirements were met as a result of two of the decisions in this document. The first is the statutory requirement that public lands be designated as "open," "limited," or "closed," to vehicle use. Second, this RMP lists decisions for livestock grazing on public lands as required by the court-ordered settlement of a 1973 lawsuit filed against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Plan amendments, if necessary, will keep the RMP current with resource management needs and policies.

Prior to 1980, the Taos Resource Area prepared land use plans, known as Management Framework Plans, for all public surface and minerals within its area of jurisdiction. Due to changing policies and new land use conflicts and issues, a Resource Management Plan was initiated. Writing of the document itself began in 1986; however, a complex process of data gathering and other preparatory activities began in 1983. This process included resource inventory, public participation, interagency coordination, and preparation of a Management Situation Analysis (MSA).

Location and Size

The planning area, located in northeastern New Mexico, encompasses approximately 24 thousand square miles of mixed land ownership which includes Union, Mora, Colfax, San Miguel, Los Alamos, Harding, Taos, Santa Fe Counties, and the eastern half of Rio Arriba County. Included within this area are approximately 564,000 acres of public surface estate and approximately 1,800,000 acres of subsurface minerals. The map on the inside front cover of this document illustrates the planning area and shows its location within New Mexico. The population of the area is centered around the Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Espanola area to the south, and the Taos and Las Vegas area to the north.

The distribution of the public lands has an important influence on land management options. The public lands are fairly well consolidated in Taos, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba Counties, while scattered or isolated ownership patterns predominate over much of the remaining planning area.

The Planning Process

The BLM resource management planning process consists of nine basic steps. This process requires an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists. The steps described in the planning regulations and followed in preparing this RMP are summarized below and graphically displayed in Figure 1-1.

Step 1. Identification of Issues

The first step in the planning process is intended to identify resource management problems, conflicts or opportunities that can be resolved through the planning process. These problems or conflicts (issues) were identified by the BLM and other agency personnel as well as member of the public. Five issues were identified and considered in this document and are discussed in the RMP.

Step 2. Development of Planning Criteria

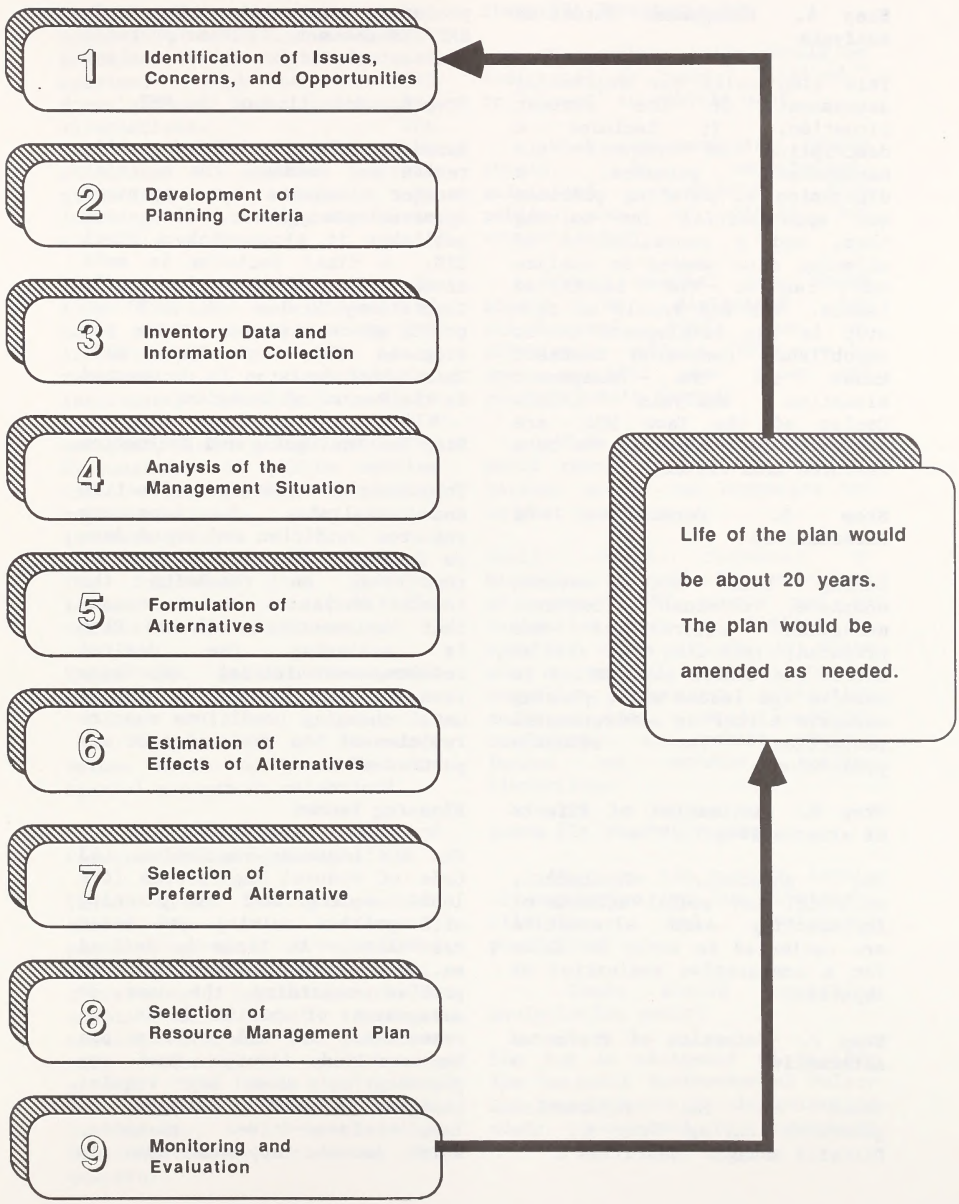
During this step preliminary decisions are made regarding the kinds of information needed to clarify the issues, the kinds of alternatives to be developed, and the factors to be considered in evaluating alternatives and selecting a preferred Resource Management Plan. As each issue was identified, a list of planning criteria was developed to help guide the resolution of that issue.

Step 3. Inventory Data and Information Collection

This step involves the collection of various kinds of environmental, social, economic, resource and institutional data needed for completion of the process. This step can include detailed field studies, literature searches or consultation with appropriate professionals. In most cases, this process is limited to inventories needed to address the issues.

FIGURE 1-1

STEPS IN THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS


1 Identification of Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities
2 Development of Planning Criteria
3 Inventory Data and Information Collection
4 Analysis of the Management Situation
5 Formulation of Alternatives
6 Estimation of Effects of Alternatives
7 Selection of Preferred Alternative
8 Selection of Resource Management Plan
9 Monitoring and Evaluation
Life of the plan would be about 20 years. The plan would be amended as needed.

Step 4. Management Situation Analysis

This step calls for deliberate assessment of the current situation. It includes a description of current BLM management guidance, a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them, and a consolidation of existing data needed to analyze and resolve the identified issues. The end result of this step is the development of an unpublished companion document known as the Management Situation analysis (MSA). Copies of the Taos MSA are available for review in the Taos Resource Area office.

Step 5. Formulation of Alternatives

During this step several complete, reasonable resource management alternatives are prepared, including one for no action and others that strive to resolve the issues while placing emphasis either on environmental protection or resource production.

Step 6. Estimation of Effects of alternatives

The physical, biological, economic, and social effects of implementing each alternative are estimated in order to allow for a comparative evaluation of impacts.

Step 7. Selection of Preferred Alternative

Based on the information generated during Step 6, the District Manager identifies a preferred alternative. The Draft RMP/EIS document is then prepared and distributed for public review.

Step 8. Selection of the RMP

Based on the results of public review and comment, the District Manager selects a proposed Resource Management Plan and publishes it along with a Final EIS. A final decision is made after a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and a 30-day public protest period on the the Proposed Plan and Final EIS. This final decision is documented in the Record of Decision.

Step 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

This step involves the collection and analysis of long-term resource condition and trend data to determine the effectiveness of the Plan in resolving the identified issues, and to ensure that implementation of the Plan is achieving the desired results. Monitoring continues from the time the RMP is adopted until changing conditions require revision of the whole plan or any portion of it.

Planning Issues

The BLM planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 1600)) equate land use planning with problem solving and issue resolution. An issue is defined as an opportunity, conflict, or problem regarding the use or management of public lands and resources. Not all problems can be resolved through land use planning - some may require changes in policy, budget, or law. Issue-driven planning, which is the approach used in

RMPs, means that only those aspects of current management believed to be at issue are examined through the process of formulating and evaluating alternatives. The issue-oriented approach eliminates needless data gathering and analysis by focusing on existing conflicts and controversies.

The five issues addressed in this RMP/EIS were identified based on the judgment of the RMP interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, interagency consultation, state government input review by BLM managers, and through extensive discussions and public meeting with individuals, industry representatives, and special interest groups.

The following five planning issues were identified for resolution in the RMP.

Issue #1: Special Management Areas

What areas and resource values should be identified for special management attention?

How should such areas and resource values be managed?

Those areas having unusual, historical, cultural, paleontological, vegetative, fish or wildlife, mineral, recreational, natural hazard, or scenic values that represent natural systems or processes were identified as having greater than local significance or special local worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern.

Issue #2: Transportation

What public lands should be designated as "open," "limited," or "closed" to vehicle use?

What transportation routes should be constructed, maintained, restricted from public use, or closed and rehabilitated?

What special use areas should be designated for off-the-road (ORV) use or off-highway vehicle (OHV) use to meet specific user group and general public demand?

What OHV/ORV designations would result in minimum conflict between people and resources and in what areas?

Public lands currently or historically used for organized or general ORV events may be designated open or limited to specific types of use if there are no special restrictions or compelling resource protection needs, user or landowner conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant further limitations.

Issue #3: Vegetative Uses

What are the correct levels of vegetative use for livestock, wildlife, and watershed production?

Where should vegetative manipulation occur?

The BLM is obligated to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act requirements in the selection of rangeland management

practices. The principal consideration for this issue is to determine changes in livestock grazing use, if any, needed to reduce conflicts between livestock grazing and other important resource values and uses. An ecological site inventory (ESI) was conducted in 1983 for the purpose of determining the ecological status of the grazing allotments and to facilitate the priority ranking of "I" category allotments.

Issue #4: Land Ownership Adjustments

On which lands should ownership be adjusted (exchanged, disposed, and/or acquired) to facilitate more efficient management?

Which techniques should be used to facilitate more efficient management?

Special attention was needed to identify those portions of the Resource Area where land ownership adjustment might be needed to achieve more efficient management and utilization of public resources. Such ownership adjustments could include exchanges, sales, transfers, and leases.

Issue #5: Right-of-Way Exclusion Areas

Which public lands in the Resource Area should be designated as utility exclusion areas?

What land-use restrictions should be placed on the public lands within identified corridors or windows?

At present, utility rights-of-way cross the public land in many directions. There is a need to insure that development of linear right-of-way does not result in undesirable impacts to other public resources and values. In general, right-of-way exclusion areas and/or windows would be designated to help guide the future placement of transmission lines and pipelines.

Changing the Plan

The Plan may be changed, if necessary, through amendment. Monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, and new or revised policies will be evaluated to determine if there is a need for an amendment. Any change in circumstances or conditions which affect the scope, terms, or conditions of the Plan may warrant an amendment. In all cases, a proposed action that does not conform to the Plan and warrants further consideration before a Plan revision is scheduled would require an amendment. Generally, an amendment is site specific or involves only one or two planning issues.

A Plan revision when necessary, involves the preparation of a new Resource Management Plan for the entire Resource Area.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Throughout the development of this plan a complex process of data gathering and other preparatory activities began in 1983. This process included resource inventory, public participation, interagency

coordination, and preparation of a Management Situation Analysis (MSA). The MSA is on file in the Taos Resource Area office, as is documentation of the public participation and interagency coordination. Consultation and coordination with agencies, organizations, and individuals occurred in a variety of ways throughout the planning process.

The planning process was officially initiated through a public notice in the Federal Register on January 26, 1984, announcing the formal start of the planning process. This notice invited the general public as well as other federal, state and local government agencies to identify major planning issues and to submit other comments or concerns regarding the planning effort to the BLM.

In early 1984, a number of day long open houses were scheduled in various locations throughout northern New Mexico to identify the major planning issues of the Taos RMP (See Table 1-1).

TABLE 1-1

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Location	Date
Chama	1-23-84
Las Vegas	1-24-84
Santa Fe	1-25-84
Espanola	1-26-84
Taos	1-27-84

The planning process was postponed late in 1984. It was resumed in April of 1986 and announced in the May 22, 1986, Federal Register. A mailer was sent to the public to determine if additional public meetings were necessary and to request comments on development of the alternatives. This mailer, the TAOS LAND USE PLAN, was sent in July 1986, to approximately 700 individuals and groups. No requests were received for additional planning meetings.

The ninety-day comment period for the Draft RMP began March 27, 1987 and ended July 1, 1987. The Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 1987. In addition, public meetings and hearings were held in Taos, Las Vegas, Espanola, and Santa Fe to provide the opportunity for oral comments (See Table 1-2).

TABLE 1-2

PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING SUMMARY

Location	Number and formal of Meetings	Date	Attendance
Taos	2 official hearings	5-11-87	34
Las Vegas	1 informational meeting	5-12-87	11
Espanola	2 informational meetings	5-13-87	17
Santa Fe	2 official hearings	5-14-87	21

The public was notified about these meetings and hearings through notices in the Federal Register, local news articles and special newspaper inserts, on radio and television and through a direct mailing. The pertinent portions of the public hearing transcripts were reprinted in the comment and response section of the Proposed RMP and the full transcripts are available for public inspection at the Taos Resource Area Office.

Informal coordination with the public has taken place throughout the planning process through personal contacts, telephone calls, and letters. In addition to the public meetings and hearings, numerous meetings or Special Management Area tours were conducted during the comment period.

In compliance with Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, all permittees and lessees in the vegetative uses issue area were contacted by letter and informed of the selective management category assigned to the allotment and the implications of this designation. Consultation meetings with allottees have been conducted and additional meetings are being scheduled at their request.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required prior to initiation of any project by a federal agency that may affect any federally listed threatened or endangered species or its habitat. Consultation was required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This RMP is considered a major project, and letters of formal consultation are on file.

The N.M. Department of Game and Fish and N.M. Natural Resources Department were contacted concerning state listed threatened or endangered wildlife and plant species. This plan is consistent with legislation protecting state listed species. Coordination and consultation with the state will be continued during implementation of the Plan.

The BLM cultural resource management program operates in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 800, which provides specific procedures for consultation between the BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) incorporates procedures for exchanging information with the SHPO concerning cultural resources on public and private lands. It defines activities requiring consultation and establishes reporting standards.

The notice of availability of the Final EIS and the Proposed RMP was published in the Federal Register on September 30, 1987. The document was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on September 30, 1987. The Federal Register notice announced a 30 day protest period ending on Nov. 9, 1987. The document was distributed to participating departments of federal, state, county, city and tribal governments and special interest groups and individuals.

The Bureau received two protests to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The protests were denied by the Bureau Director and the Proposed RMP was accepted without changes.

Continuing Public Participation

The Taos Resource Area will prepare an RMP summary update every year. The purpose of this summary will be to inform the public of the progress made in implementing the RMP. The summary will also describe the activity plans to be prepared the following year so that interested members of the public may request copies and comment on them. The BLM hopes that this will enable the public to become further involved in the specific land management actions resulting from the implementation of this RMP.

Consistency With Other Plans

The BLM's planning regulations require that Resource Management Plans be "consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans, and the policies and procedures contained therein, of other federal agencies, state and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands..." (43 CFR 1610.3-20). In order to ensure such consistency, plans were solicited from federal, state, and local agencies and groups as well as Tribal governments.

There are no identified inconsistencies between this Resource Management Plan and officially approved and adopted resource related plans of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

Section 2

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As a result of the resource management planning process, decisions and guidance aimed at resolving the five planning issues have been brought forward. Resolution of the Land Ownership Adjustment Issue sets the stage for more efficient management and utilization of resources on public lands in the Taos Resource Area. Zones are established for public land exchange, retention and acquisition to display where Bureau funding, program efforts and management attention will be focused.

Management Philosophy

The intent of the acquisition and retention zones is to place priority where public lands would be retained and expanded to consolidate federal ownership and improve public access. These lands would be retained for multiple use management in the long term. Exchange proposals that consolidate ownership patterns in the acquisition zone and serve the public interest would be considered.

The intent of the disposal zone is to place priority on exchanging public lands out of federal ownership in the long term. Disposal actions could occur through exchange, sale, sale under the Rio Grande Occupancy Resolution Program, or through provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or Color of Title Acts. Strict adherence to resource program goals; management prescriptions; and other applicable resource requirements will be given first priority when analyzing proposed land ownership adjustments.

Plan Decisions

Issue #1 - Special Management Areas

Twenty-one Special Management Areas including nine ACECs are designated in this plan (see map 2-1). The Management prescriptions for each SMA and the following MFP decisions will determine how these areas and resource values will be managed.

1. Disallow any action where removal of vegetation would adversely alter areas of riparian habitat.

2. Control surface--disturbing activities on public lands in T. 21 N., R. 9 E., and R. 10 E.

3. Protect riparian habitat while providing water needs for the livestock industry.

4. Manage and monitor the upper Rio Chama from El Vado, south, as a wintering habitat for bald eagles.

5. Limit all new leasable mineral exploration and saleable mineral exploration and extraction activities in crucial antelope habitat in the northern

TAOS RESOURCE AREA

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CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
TAOS COUNTY
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
SANTA FE COUNTY
MORA COUNTY
COLFAX COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
HARDING COUNTY
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
SANTA FE N F

TIERRA AMARILLA
TAOS
RATON
ESPANOLA
LOS ALAMOS
SANTA FE
MORA
LAS VEGAS
MOSQUERO

RIO CHAMA
OJO CALIENTE
WARM SPRINGS
RACECOURSE
SAHIU PUEBLO
KU PUEBLO
OJO DEL ZORRO PUEBLO
PUEBLO QUEMADO
SANTA CRUZ LAKE REC. AREA
LA CAJA PUEBLO
PUEBLO SARCO
LA CIENEGA MESA
SAN LAZARO
FUN VALLEY
SOMBRILLO ACEC
SABINOSO
RIPARIAN/AQUATIC SMA'S (NOT SHOWN ON MAP)
LOWER EMBUDO
BLACK MESA ACEC

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA) AND AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

1 SAN ANTONIO SMA
SAN ANTONIO GORGE ACEC
WINTER RANGE ACEC
2 WILD RIVERS RECREATION AREA SMA
GUADALUPE MTN. ACEC
3 RIO CHAMA SMA
4 OJO CALIENTE ACEC
5 WARM SPRINGS SMA
AGUA CALIENTE ACEC
EMBUDO CANYON ACEC
6 RACECOURSE ACEC
7 SAHIU PUEBLO SMA
8 KU PUEBLO SMA
9 OJO DEL ZORRO PUEBLO SMA
10 PUEBLO QUEMADO SMA
11 SANTA CRUZ LAKE REC. AREA SMA
12 LA CAJA PUEBLO SMA
13 PUEBLO SARCO SMA
14 LA CIENEGA MESA SMA
15 SAN LAZARO SMA
16 FUN VALLEY SMA
17 SOMBRILLO ACEC
18 SABINOSO SMA
19 RIPARIAN/AQUATIC SMA'S (NOT SHOWN ON MAP)
20 LOWER EMBUDO SMA
21 BLACK MESA ACEC

TAOS RESOURCE AREA
ALBUQUERQUE
NEW MEXICO

N

10 0 10 20 30 40 Miles
SCALE

MAP 2-1

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

PUBLIC LAND
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

portion of the Resource Area to activities that are compatible with antelope kidding periods.

6. Prevent channelization or dredging operations on public lands along all active riparian stream areas to preserve wildlife habitat and fishery resources.

7. Initiate studies in all permanent streams in the Resource Area to establish minimum flows to maintain existing aquatic habitat.

8. Develop a Cooperative Management Plan with the USFS and the NMGFD with respect to the joint management of the San Antonio Mountain as a Wildlife Management Area.

Goals for land allocation management will be achieved where stated and the management prescriptions will be implemented for each SMA in Section 5.

Issue #2 - Transportation

ORV use on all public lands retained in Federal ownership are limited to "existing roads and trails" (see map 2-2). There are two areas which have special designations for ORV use; Rio Chama (6,680 acres)is closed to ORV use; and Fun Valley (19,200 acres) is open to ORV use with Special-3 Stipulations for Cultural and Paleontological values.

Vehicular access will be limited to designated roads and trails or closed as called for in the management objectives in the transportation plan as it is developed in future activity plans and the management prescriptions for each SMA in Section 5.

The Resource Area is divided into access tracts with each assigned a priority for development of individual transportation plans according to BLM Manual 8341.

Issue #3 - Vegetative Uses

There will be an estimated long term increase of 13 percent in AUMS in the Resource Area. Vegetative manipulation to control sagebrush and increase perennial gross production will occur where there is extensive big-sagebrush growth.

Correct levels of vegetative use based on a four year monitoring plan will be set. The ecological condition and vegetative productivity over the long term will be maintained and riparian areas, critical watersheds, and critical wildlife habitats will be protected.

Issue #4 - Land Ownership Adjustments

Within the Resource Area, 84,518 acres have been identified for exchange or disposal (see map 2-3). Lands not within these areas will be retained and expanded to consolidate federal ownership and improve public access.

TAOS RESOURCE AREA

R1W | R1E | R2E | R3E | R4E | R5E | R6E | R7E | R8E | R9E | R10E | R11E | R12E | R13E | R14E | R15E | R16E | R17E | R18E | R19E | R20E | R21E | R22E | R23E | R24E | R25E | R26E | R27E | R28E | R29E | R30E | R31E | R32E | R33E | R34E | R35E | R38E

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T10N

SAN ANTONIO MOUNTAIN
CARSON
NATIONAL
FOREST
RIO CHAMA
RIO CHAMA
SANTA FE
NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST
OJO CALIENTE
SAHIU PUEBLOS
FUN VALLEY
KU PUEBLO
OJO DEL ZORRO PUEBLO
PUEBLO QUEMADO
LA CAJA PUEBLO
PUEBLO SARCO
RIO GRANDE
RIO GRANDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CLOSED TO ORV USE
CARSON
NATIONAL
FOREST
TAOS
CARSON
NATIONAL
FOREST
TAOS COUNTY
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
SANTA FE
NATIONAL FOREST
MORA COUNTY
SANTA FE COUNTY
SANTA FE N.F.
LA CIENEGA MESA
SAN LAZARO
RATON
COLFAX COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
CLAYTON
MOSQUERO
HARDING COUNTY
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
SABINOSO
LAS VEGAS
MORA
ESPANOLA
LOS ALAMOS
TIERRA AMARILLA
SANTA FE

64 84 285 68 3 4 25 56 39 65

TAOS RESOURCE AREA
ALBUQUERQUE
NEW MEXICO

N

10 0 10 20 30 40 Miles
SCALE

MAP 2-2

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS

- ORV USE LIMITED TO AUTHORIZED USERS ONLY (CLOSED)
- ORV USE LIMITED TO DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS
- OPEN TO OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE

TAOS RESOURCE AREA

R1W | R1E | R2E | R3E | R4E | R5E | R6E | R7E | R8E | R9E | R10E | R11E | R12E | R13E | R14E | R15E | R16E | R17E | R18E | R19E | R20E | R21E | R22E | R23E | R24E | R25E | R26E | R27E | R28E | R29E | R30E | R31E | R32E | R33E | R34E | R35E | R36E

T32N
T31N
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T17N
T16N
T15N
T14N
T13N
T12N
T11N
T10N

TIERRA AMARILLA
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
TAOS COUNTY
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
RIO GRANDE
RIO CHAMA
TAOS
RATON
CLAYTON
COLFAX COUNTY
UNION COUNTY
ESPAÑOLA
LOS ALAMOS
MORA
MORA COUNTY
MOSQUERO
SANTA FE
LAS VEGAS
SABINOSO
HARDING COUNTY
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
CERRILLOS HILLS
SAN LAZARO
SAN PEDRO MOUNTAIN
SANTA FE COUNTY
SANTA FE N F

64 3 25 84 285 68 56 39 65 4

10 0 10 20 30 40 Miles
SCALE

TAOS RESOURCE AREA
ALBUQUERQUE
NEW MEXICO

N

MAP 2-3

LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

- PUBLIC LAND
- DISPOSAL ZONE
- ACQUISITION ZONE

The following MFP Decisions are carried forward as objectives in managing the lands resources in the Resource Area:

1. Transfer from Federal, 619 acres of public land near Espanola, by sale or Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

2. Retain 20 acres of public land in section 28, T. 25 N., R. 13 E., for a BLM Resource Area facility.

3. Transfer from Federal ownership, through exchange or sale under Sections 203 and 206 of FLPMA, all scattered and isolated tracts of public lands in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Taos Counties.

4. Acquire or obtain the necessary easements and/or rights-of-way.

5. Acquire certain State lands in the northern part of the Resource Area.

6. Transfer from Federal ownership, through exchange with the New Mexico State Land Office of any other interested parties, lands in the southern portion of the Resource Area.

7. Acquire certain State and private lands in the northern part of the Resource Area for the purpose of "blocking" commercial timber and pinyon-juniper stands now under partial BLM jurisdiction.

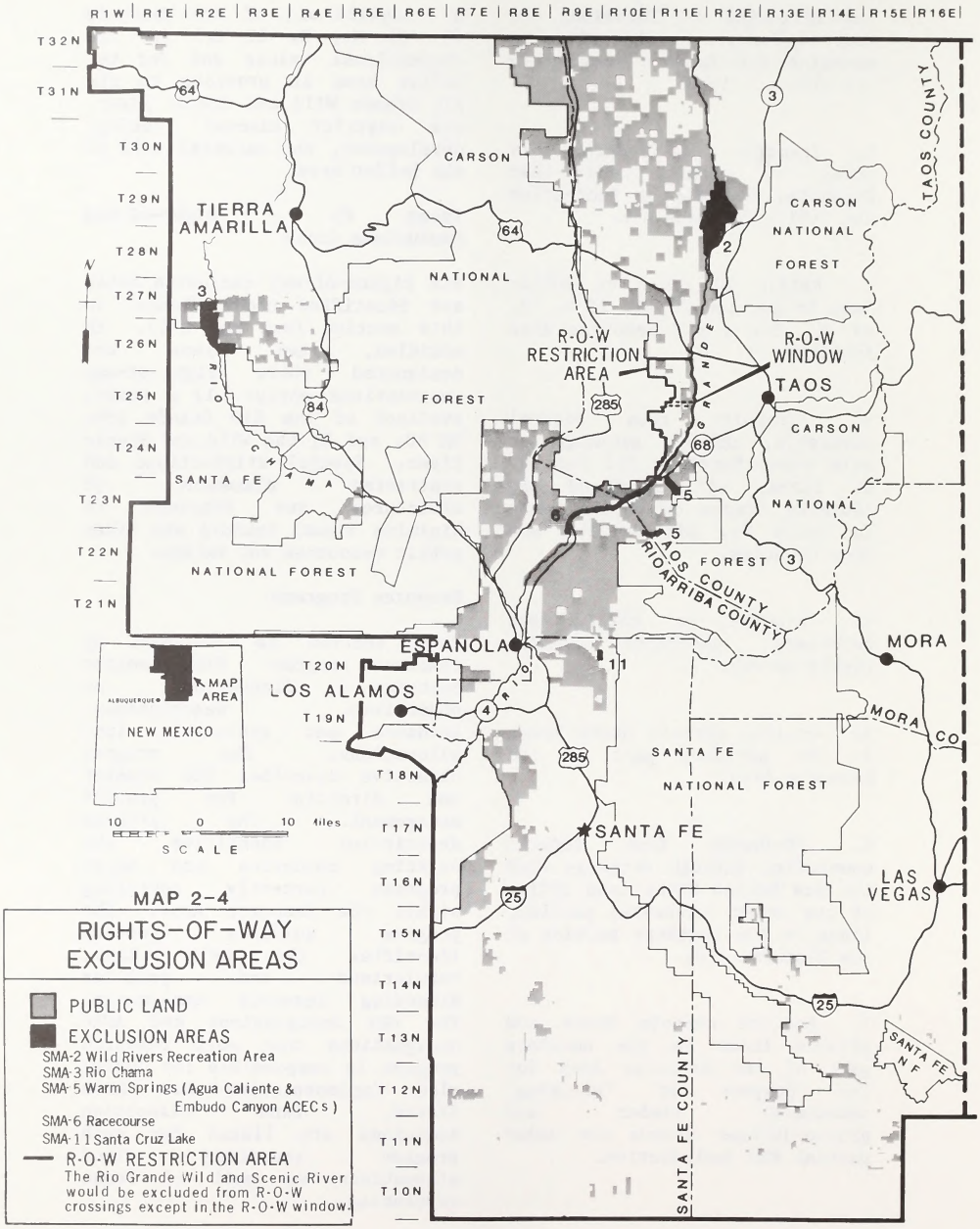
8. Acquire all of Ute Mountain (T. 31 N., R. 12 E.) for its recreational values and for the buffer area it provides to the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and restrict mineral leasing, development, and material sale in the buffer area.

Issue #5 - Right-of-Way Exclusions Areas

Six rights-of-way exclusion areas are identified under "Lands" in this section (see map 2-4). In addition, two areas are designated where right-of-way restrictions apply: 1) a scenic overlook of the Rio Grande from NM 68; and 2) the Wild and Scenic River. Special stipulations and restricted placement of structures are required to minimize visual impacts and other public resources and values.

Resource Programs

This section is arranged by resource program. Each program contains discussion on objectives, descriptions, guidance and applicable land allocations. The program objective describes the mission and direction for program management. The program description identifies the existing resources and major programs currently operating within the Resource Area. The program guidance portion identifies the major laws, regulations and policies directing resource management. The ORV designations and ACEC designations that each resource program is responsible for during plan implementation are also listed. Land allocation decisions are listed for each program requiring land allocations as part of issue resolution.



MAP 2-4

RIGHTS-OF-WAY EXCLUSION AREAS

PUBLIC LAND

EXCLUSION AREAS

SMA-2 Wild Rivers Recreation Area
SMA-3 Rio Chama
SMA-5 Warm Springs (Agua Caliente & Embudo Canyon ACECs)
SMA-6 Racecourse
SMA-11 Santa Cruz Lake

R-O-W RESTRICTION AREA

The Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River would be excluded from R-O-W crossings except in the R-O-W window.

The management prescriptions, listed for each Special Management Area discussed in Section 5, make up the action steps to be taken which have been identified at this stage of planning.

OBJECTIVE

The lands program has two objectives: to facilitate the acquisition, exchange, or disposal of public lands to provide the most efficient management of public resources; and, to grant right-of-way corridors and acquire easements while minimizing undesirable impacts to other public resources and values.

DESCRIPTION

The Taos Resource Area administers approximately 563,887 acres of public surface estate. These lands are fairly well consolidated in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties. Throughout the remainder of the Resource Area fragmented and isolated patterns of public land exist. An exception to the fragmented pattern is found in San Miguel County in an area known as the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area, which contains approximately 17,000 acres and is well consolidated.

Lands administered by BLM in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties are contiguous with several Indian pueblos (Picuris, San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, and Nambe). Much of the adjacent public land is traditionally used by these pueblos for wood gathering and religious purposes.

The Rio Grande MFP identified approximately 5,000 acres in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe Counties as suitable for disposal. Within the remaining counties approximately 30,000 acres qualify as being isolated and difficult to manage.

In Santa Fe County the close proximity of public lands to population centers creates an active lands program for the Taos Resource Area. Rights-of-way for access, utilities, and communication sites are in demand. A number of Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases and patents have been issued. These have primarily been for schools, churches, landfills and recreation areas. With the increasing numbers of requests for land sales and exchanges the work load will continue to grow as more land around these communities is developed.

GUIDANCE

Land Ownership Adjustments

Acquisition and Retention Zones

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579 Oct. 21, 1976) states that public lands should be retained in federal ownership unless adjustment is in the public interest. Therefore, public surface will remain under BLM administration if resources of national, state, or regional significance are found on them, and the possible adverse effects of the adjustment action cannot be mitigated at reasonable cost. Examples of such resources are: habitat for threatened or endangered species, riparian areas, wetlands, and important cultural resources.

Management is improved by consolidating public lands in contiguous land ownership patterns. Acquisitions through exchange that consolidate ownership, public use areas, wildlife habitat, watersheds, land treatment areas, grazing administration, cultural values, and other resource management needs in SMAs will have priority.

Disposal Zones

Any lands designated for land ownership adjustment must be so identified through the Bureau's land use planning process. Additionally, all lands identified for sale or exchange in this RMP must meet the criteria established in Sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA. Use authorizations such as Recreation and Public Purposes leases will be considered for approval as they are received.

The federal government will generally retain all mineral rights and reservations for ditches and canals. Rights-of-way and easements will also be retained, if necessary, when implementing exchanges or other types of disposal actions (see maps 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4).

Existing authorized permits, leases, rights-of-way, and licenses will be identified as valid existing rights. All exchanges or disposals of public land will be subject to valid existing rights. Holders of valid permits or cooperative agreements covered by Section 4 of the Taylor Grazing Act will be reimbursed, by the new land owner, for financial investments they have made in rangeland improvements on public lands if the BLM exchanges or disposes of the land.

The following major land transfer actions are listed in their order of preference:

1. State exchanges
2. Private exchanges
3. Recreation & Public Purpose leases or patents
4. Withdrawals to other federal agencies
5. Public Sales
6. Other methods of adjustment

Public Land Exchanges/Sales

All exchange proposals are prepared in conformance with FLPMA and National Environmental Policy Act requirements, including extensive public review. On Oct. 3, 1984, the Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Director and the Commissioner of Public Lands of the State of New Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a comprehensive, long-term statewide land exchange program between the BLM and the state of New Mexico (USDI, BLM 1984b). The objectives of this program are to improve the land management potential of both state and federal lands; eliminate unnecessary federal and state conflicts generated by existing ownership patterns; facilitate the management of state and BLM lands by substantially realigning the scattered state and BLM sections and creating solid block or consolidated land ownership; and develop procedures that are most expeditious and cost effective. The Taos Resource Area has recently accomplished a land disposal/exchange which was affirmed by Interior Board of Land Appeals Decision 86-1531 dated August 8, 1988.

Sales of public lands identified as suitable for adjustment in an approved land use plan are administered on a case-by-case basis. All sale actions are examined through the NEPA 2-10 process and are subject to public participationand review. Exchange or sale of any land must meet the adjustment criteria established for these types of actions in FLPMA.

Public Land Withdrawals

In an effort to keep as much of the public land open to the widest variety of uses, the BLM reviews existing withdrawals on public lands on a periodic basis. This review ensures that the reasons for the withdrawals are still valid and that only the acreage needed is retained in withdrawn status. Lands withdrawn and land recommended for withdrawal are shown in Table 2-3. Review of BLM and other federal agency withdrawals will be completed by 1991 for withdrawal. Upon revocation or modification of a withdrawal, all or part of the withdrawn land could be restored to multiple use management. Withdrawal reviews for the past five years are itemized in Section 6.

BLM policy is to minimize the amount of public land withdrawn, particularly from mining and mineral leasing, and where applicable, to replace existing withdrawals with rights-of-way, leases, permits, or cooperative agreements. Withdrawal applications will be reviewed to determine if formal withdrawal is needed.

Withdrawals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the purpose of benefitting Indian groups will only be used for administrative sites and for segregating the land from operations under the mining laws in support of land exchange or sale proposals. They will not be used for transferring management responsibility.

Recreation and Public Purposes

A number of inquiries are received annually concerning the leasing of public lands under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act. Under the Act, the BLM has the authority to lease or patent public lands to governmental or non-profit entities for public parks, building sites, correction centers, or other public purposes. Applications are processed under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and are subject to public review.

Right-Of-Way Exclusion Areas

The Taos Resource Area grants rights-of-way, leases, and permits to qualified individuals, businesses, and governmental entities for the use of the public lands. Protection of natural and cultural resources is considered in the granting process. Listed below are the SMAs within which resource values would be significantly impacted by the construction of new right-of-way corridors. For this reason, future rights-of-way construction is prohibited in these areas.

Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA
Rio Chama SMA
Aqua Caliente ACEC
Embudo Canyon ACEC
Racecourse SMA
Santa Cruz Lake SMA

The remaining SMAs contain management prescriptions that require special stipulations for informed placement of right-of-way corridors and windows before an application can be granted.

The remainder of the Resource Area would be available for rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis. Maximum utilization of existing rights-of-way is encouraged, including joint use whenever possible. All right-of-way actions will be coordinated with federal, state, and local government agencies, adjacent landowners, and interested individuals and groups.

Access

The Taos Resource Area has not had an active easement acquisition program. This is largely due to the numerous roads located throughout the Resource Area that have historically been open to the public. Normally only one or two easements are acquired each year. As required by Bureau policy, these easements generally provide legal access to BLM-initiated range improvement projects and recreation areas. Refer to Section 6 for a list of easement acquisition needs. In addition, the development of a transportation plan will incorporate these access requirements.

Acquisition

An acquisition zone has been identified where public land would be retained and expanded to consolidate federal ownership and improve public access. No active acquisition program would be pursued on lands not within this zone; however, acquisitions through exchange would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the minerals program is to provide the opportunity for development of mineral resources in a manner which minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands.

DESCRIPTION

There are five mineral activities within the Taos Resource Area that require management. They are oil, gas, and carbon dioxide leasing; geothermal leasing; coal management; locatable minerals, and mineral materials. These programs will continue to be a high priority responsibility for the Resource Area.

Oil, Gas, and Carbon Dioxide Leasing

As of December 1986, there were 227 federal leases for oil and gas covering 507,000 acres. Oil and natural gas production is insignificant, but large amounts of carbon dioxide gas are produced from the Buyeros field in the eastern part of the Resource Area. The Resource Area is responsible for processing Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs); pre-drill inspection of proposed drill sites; cultural resource and threatened or endangered species clearances; compliance inspections and enforcement of lease terms, conditions, safety requirements, production verification, site maintenance and security; and wellsite abandonment inspections. Records are maintained for all leases for which the Resource Area has responsibility. They are continually updated to show status (active, inactive, producing, non-producing, etc.), changes in operators, assignments of lease rights and other actions. Any required Known Geologic Structure (KGS) determinations and approval of agreements (such as unitization, communitization, and development contracts) within the Resource Area are done by the District Office.

Geothermal Leasing

The Taos RA currently has no federal geothermal leases; however, locations near Ojo Caliente, Taos, and Las Vegas have high geothermal resource potential.

Coal Management

Presently, coal management in the Taos Resource Area is limited to the reclamation of a coal lease pending relinquishment in the Raton Coal Field. The Raton Field is part of the Denver-Raton Mesa Coal Region. At present, no federal coal is being mined in the Raton Field and all production is from the privately owned Maxwell Grant. The Denver-Raton Mesa Coal Region was dissolved in the early 1980's leaving the area open to lease by application. The region was decertified because Industry interest was too small to justify federally-initiated lease offerings.

The Resource Area's other coal field, the Cerrillos Field, was dropped from consideration for leasing in the Rio Grande Management Framework Plan (1979).

Saleable Minerals

Saleable minerals include such common variety materials as sand and gravel, fill, volcanic cinders and brick clay. At present there are three active sand and gravel or fill contracts, four scoria contracts, and one clay contract. This level of use will probably continue or increase in the future. In addition, there are five leases for sand and gravel on Indian lands, for which the BLM has trust responsibility.

Locatable Minerals

Locatable minerals in the Resource Area include molybdenum, beryllium, perlite, pumice, rare earth elements, mica, gold, silver, uranium, and copper. An Environmental Impact Statement is being written for a millsite tailings facility for the Molycorp molybdenum mine near Questa, New Mexico. Other activities include processing Notices of Intent and Plans of Operation. Some validity examinations may be needed from time to time for Bureau actions such as surface conveyance in sales or exchanges.

GUIDANCE

It is the policy of the Bureau to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of these resources consistent with national objectives for maintaining an adequate supply of minerals at reasonable market prices. At the same time, the BLM strives to ensure that mineral development is carried out in a manner which minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands. The Albuquerque District Office is presently in the process of completing a district-wide amendment which will bring The Resource Area into full compliance with The Supplemental Program Guidance.

Oil, Gas, and Carbon Dioxide Leasing

The Resource Area's responsibilities consist of permitting and inspection and enforcement programs. As a general rule, all public lands not managed under the Bureau Wilderness Management Policy (USDI, BLM 1981a) and Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (USDI, BLM 1979) are available for oil, gas and carbon dioxide leasing, exploration and development. In certain areas, oil and gas leases are issued with only standard stipulations attached. In other areas, leases may have special stipulations attached at the time of issuance to protect sensitive resource values. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect important resource values, "no surface occupancy" stipulations are attached to leases. Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations will continue to be based on the guidance and policy statements in this plan. Appendix A of the Plan describes the fluid minerals leasing process and special stipulations in more detail. Table 2-1 shows acres in the RA which are open, open with constraints, and closed to leasing and development.

Geothermal Leasing

Although authorized under separate statute and implemented by different regulations, geothermal leasing is virtually identical to oil and gas leasing. The same sequence of activities and leasing actions is followed, whether the commodity is oil and gas, carbon dioxide, or geothermal fluids. Site specific decisions regarding the attachment of appropriate stipulations will be based on the Taos Resource Management Plan.

Coal Management

There is no known interest in federal coal in either the Raton or Cerrillos Field. Because of the lack of interest, BLM management has decided that it would be premature to identify areas as acceptable for coal leasing. If the need arises, this can be handled through a subsequent plan amendment.

TABLE 2-1

Determinations of Areas Open and Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing in the Taos Resource Area

Management Category	Acres
Open: Standard Lease Terms	1,639,150 *
Open: Minor Constraints (Special Management Area restrictions)	70,780
Open: NSO or Similar Major Constraints(Special Management Area Restrictions)	25,675
Closed: Discretionary	0
Closed: Nondiscretionary (Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River and Rio Chama, Sabinoso, and San Antonio WSAs)	51,675 **
Total BLM-Managed Oil and Gas Estate	1,771,000 *

* Does not include Federal oil and gas interests under National Forest lands.

** Approximately 16,000 acres of Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness Study Areas overlap areas with constraints in the San Antonio, Wild Rivers, and Rio Chama SMAs.

Material Sales and Permits

Federal lands are the major source of mineral materials (primarily sand and gravel) for industrial, state and local projects in Taos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties. The Resource Area is responsible for the sale, permitting, and inspection and enforcement programs for mineral material activity. Regulations directing this program are found in 43 CFR 3600. Table 2-2 shows acres open and closed to saleable mineral disposal in the Resource Area.

TABLE 2-2

Determinations of Areas Open and Closed to Operation of the Mining Laws and to Mineral Material Disposal

Management Category	Locatable Mineral Acres	Mineral Material Acres
Open: Standard Conditions	1,640,380*	1,660,700*
Open with Constraints: 3809 Plan of Operations required before surface disturbance on any mining claim in certain SMAs	38,350	0
Closed: Discretionary (certain Special Management Areas)	24,495	38,815
Closed: Nondiscretionary (Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River and Rio Chama, Sabinoso, and San Antonio WSAs)	51,675**	51,675***
Other Withdrawals Potentially Restricted or Closed (restrictions vary by specific laws and orders; acreage included in Open with Standard Conditions)		
Power Withdraws and Classifications	8,971	8,971
Rio Grande State Park	1,325	1,325
Total BLM-Managed Locatable and Saleable Minerals	1,746,000*	1,746,000*

* Does not include federal minerals under National Forest Lands.
** Includes 8900 acres of overlap with SMA restrictions and closures.
*** Includes 5200 acres of overlap with SMA restrictions and closures.

Locatable Minerals Management

Mineral exploration and development on public land is regulated under 43 CFR 3800. The Resource Area's responsibility in this program consists of completing validity examinations for patent or Bureau actions, and review and inspection of notices of intent to conduct operations and plans of operation. Table 2-2 shows acres open and closed to mineral location in the Resource Area, as well as acres requiring a Plan of Operations for all surface disturbance.

Although the Resource Area does not have reclamation responsibility, it does have a responsibility to the District to report when reclamation will be needed and when environmental problems are encountered with locatable mineral exploration and development.

Withdrawals

Subject to valid existing rights, the following public lands are recommended for withdrawal from future mineral entry and closed to mineral material disposal, and oil and gas leasing:

TABLE 2-3

Fishing Hole Site	78.41 acres (completed 5/8/88)
County Line Site	185.98 acres (completed 5/8/88)
San Antonio SMA	520 acres
Wild Rivers Recreation SMA	18,188 acres (Total)
Intensive Use Zone	4,900 acres
East Rim Zone	3,898 acres
West Rim Zone	4,160 acres
Guadalupe Zone	5,700 acres
Guadalupe ACEC	1,220 acres
Rio Chama SMA	6,680 acres
Ojo Caliente ACEC	40 acres
Embudo Canyon ACEC	1,060 acres
Aqua Caliente ACEC	580 acres
Racecourse ACEC	2,020 acres
Sahiu Pueblo SMA*	
Ku Pueblo SMA	65 acres
Ojo Del Zoro SMA	24 acres
Pueblo Quemado SMA	159 acres
Santa Cruz Lake SMA	640 acres
La Caja Pueblo SMA	85 acres
Pueblo Sarco SMA	10 acres
La Cienega Mesa SMA	953 acres
San Lazaro SMA	77 acres
Riparian/Aquatic SMA**	
Lower Embudo SMA	482 acres
BLM Office Lot	20 acres

*Because the area in which Sahiu Pueblo is located has never been legally subdivided, it cannot be precisely determined who owns which parts until a cadastral survey has been completed.

**Because Riparian/Aquatic Areas traverse portions of public, state, and private land and they are incompletely mapped and studied, the total acreage associated with each riparian system is undetermined.

Refer to section 5 for map locations. These SMAs are closed and withdrawn under management description. There are other special land withdrawals that may or may not prohibit mineral entry or material disposal. Review of these withdrawals will be done on a case-by-case basis as the need arises.

MFP Decisions Brought Forward

Reduce saleable mineral material trespass activites by developing a minerals trespass control plan.

Review the present inventory of material site rights-of-way within the Resource Area, and solicit relinquishments of all rights-of-way which do not involve surface occupancy.

An attempt should be made to insure that fossil materials, if present, are recovered from BLM sand and gravel quarries within the Taos Resource Area by formally encouraging operators to report and/or salvage fossils uncovered in the quarry operations.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the range program is to administer the grazing of livestock on public lands in such a manner as to maintain and improve the condition of the public rangelands so that they become as productive as feasible for all rangeland values.

DESCRIPTION

Operations and Period of Use

Presently, there are 326 livestock operators within the TRA on 321 allotments, which includes 144 Section 3, and 177 Section 15 allotments. The current preference, for the TRA is 67,823 AUMs, of which none are suspended, and all AUMs are available for livestock grazing.

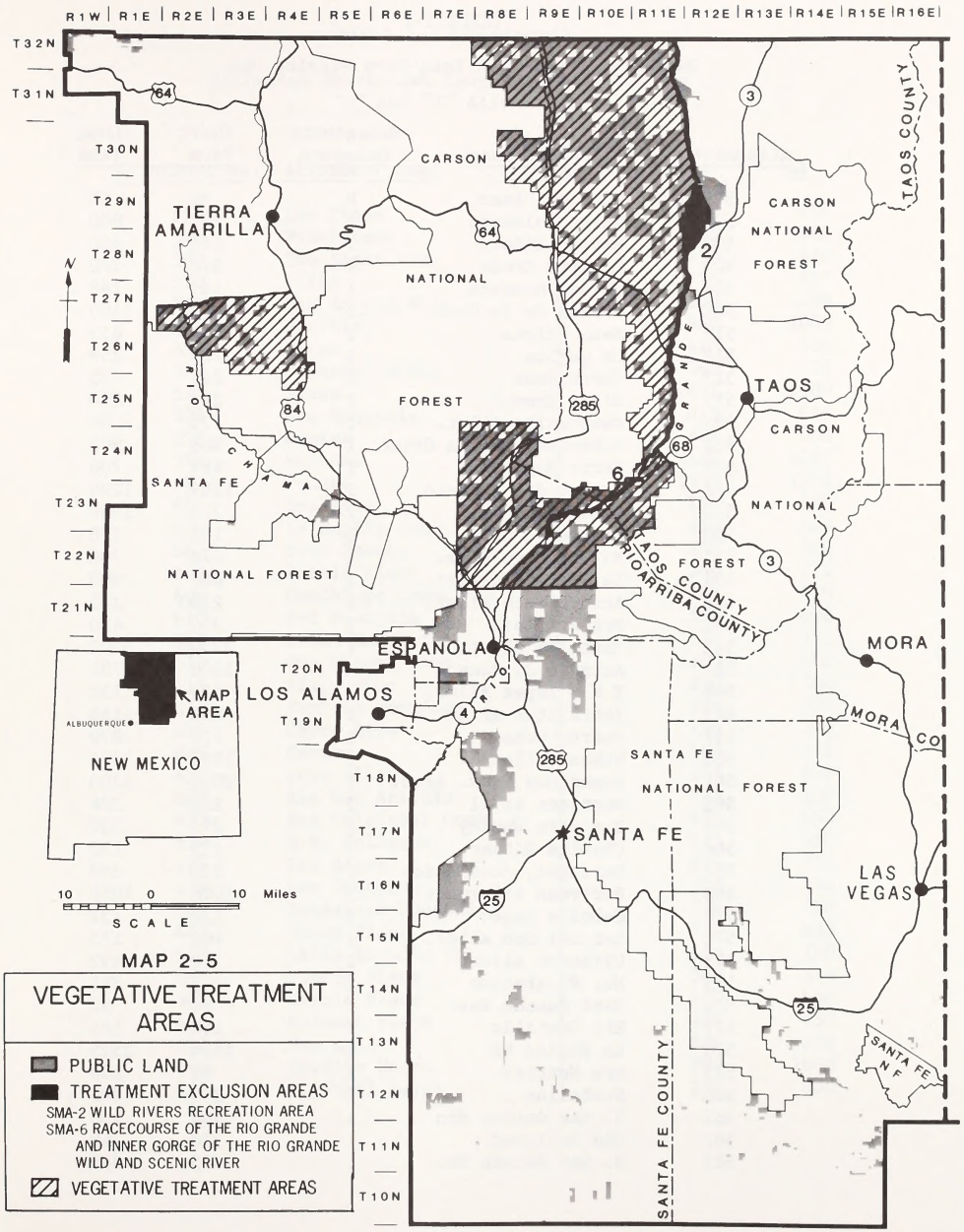
The class of livestock and type of livestock operation in the TRA have remained relatively unchanged over the past ten years, although a trend in converting from sheep use to cattle use and free use to paid use has occurred in the past three years.

Because of the large variation in elevation, climate, and topography, the season of use varies in the Resource Area from seasonal to year-long. Several permittees in the Resource Area hold permits on USFS lands as well as public lands resulting in dual use periods. This necessitates close coordination with the USFS.

This plan will provide for a balance of resource uses through a program of improved grazing management. Future changes in management will be developed to resolve resource conflicts. Vegetative treatment will occur in conjunction with intensive rangeland management on about 5,000 acres per year (see map 2-4). In the long-term, livestock grazing use in the resource Area is estimated to increase by about 13% (see Table 2-3) as resource conflicts are resolved and grazing management plans are implemented.

Forage Demand

The degree of economic and cultural dependence of public land forage remains high and is expected to continue. In many parts of the Resource Area it is a cultural dependence more than economic because the permittees have strong ties to the land.



MAP 2-5

VEGETATIVE TREATMENT AREAS

- PUBLIC LAND
- TREATMENT EXCLUSION AREAS
  - SMA-2 WILD RIVERS RECREATION AREA
  - SMA-6 RACECOURSE OF THE RIO GRANDE AND INNER GORGE OF THE RIO GRANDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER
- VEGETATIVE TREATMENT AREAS

TABLE 2-4

Estimated Short- and Long-Term Grazing Use

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Management Category	Short Term	Long Term
574	Peacock Place	M	36	50
501	Cerro Colorado	I	780	800
503	Embudo Allot.	I	115	130
504	El Rito Creek	I	540	570
506	Miguel Herrera	I	145	168
507	Canada de la Cruz	I	1050	1100
512	Mesa Prieta	I	750	855
513	La Cejita	I	225	259
517	Chris West	I	223	225
519	Dixon Comm.	I	212	250
521	Cuestecita Allot.	I	75	84
522	Sebastian Martin Grant	I	888	900
527	Cerro Negro	I	684	700
528	Arroyo del Palacio	I	1189	1200
529	Canada Ancha	I	775	1000
530	Cuarteles Comm.	I	168	170
531	No. Chimayo Comm.	I	678	700
534	La Puebla-Potrero	I	888	900
536	Arroyo Seco Allot.	I	250	275
541	Ortiz Allot.	I	375	420
542	Santa Fe Allot.	I	2750	3202
543	Antonio J. Baca	I	1500	1700
544	T & M Lopez Allot.	I	120	132
545	Tetillitas Allot.	I	950	1150
557	Puerto Comm.	I	775	870
560	Hibner Allot.	I	1295	1300
561	Esperanza Graz. Assn.	I	2000	2200
563	Martinez et al	I	250	288
564	Everette Whaley	I	295	333
566	Charlie Hibner	I	121	132
567	Martinez, Juan & Son	I	250	290
568	Berryman Allotment	I	1000	1050
570	Cebolla Sage	I	120	132
572	Lom Del Oso Allot.	I	160	175
573	Ulibarri Allot.	I	170	192
575	No. Pinabetoso	I	325	395
576	East Punche East	I	86	90
577	Rio Costillo	I	150	185
578	La Segita NE	I	2450	2525
579	Rio Nutrias	I	96	100
580	Stateline	I	240	288
581	S. San Antone Mtn	I	368	400
582	Old Railroad	I	330	340
583	N. San Antone Mtn	I	325	350

TABLE 2-4 (continued)

Estimated Short- and Long-Term AUMs for the "M" and "I" Allotments

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Management Category	ST	LT
584	Los Pinos	I	410	450
586	Pinabetosa	I	675	700
587	Two Eight Five	I	400	410
588	Alire	I	725	825
589	San Antone Mtn.	I	1300	1350
590	Espinisa	I	969	1000
591	Largo	I	420	450
592	Sowards, Elwin	I	340	375
593	Llano	I	1444	1600
594	Ute Mountain	I	625	650
595	Mestas	I	864	900
596	Montoso	I	1101	1150
597	Punche	I	1530	1570
601	Roadside	I	120	130
602	La Segita Comm.	I	420	450
605	East Punche	I	250	300
607	Barela Place	I	240	275
608	Guadalupe Comm.	I	200	210
610	Pot Mountain	I	550	600
612	Brush Mountain	I	117	120
615	One Eleven Comm.	I	500	600
618	Sixty Four	I	230	250
619	Cerrito Dormilon	I	400	456
625	Cerro Aire	I	150	175
626	Carson	I	140	175
631	Puye Allot.	I	375	400
632	Rio San Antonio	I	175	200
633	San Cristobal Comm.	I	635	650
634	G.B. Gallegos	I	225	250
636	Law Allot.	I	876	900
639	Los Cerritos	I	388	400
640	Guadalupe Mountain	I	140	150
642	Duran Place	I	570	625
643	Litle Atencio Pl.	I	144	150
644	Punche Place	I	340	375
645	Garcia Place	I	520	600
646	Salazar Place	I	400	450
647	No. Agua	I	636	700
648	Cerrito Negro	I	939	1000
942	J. Vigil Lease	I	228	250

GUIDANCE

The livestock grazing program in the Taos Resource Area is authorized by the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 , the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. In addition to issuance of grazing permits and leases, unauthorized use detection and abatement, allotment supervision, and other actions authorized by the previously mentioned legislation, the Resource Area administers the range program in compliance with the final judgment of the Natural Resources Defense Council vs Morton lawsuit, Civil No. 1983-73.

Current management of the livestock grazing program is also guided by the final grazing management policy and the final range improvement policy outlined in Washington Office Instruction Memoranda 82-292 and 83-27, respectively, which have been incorporated into current manuals, regulations, and handbooks.

Selective Management Categorization

Each of the 321 grazing allotments have been placed into one of three selective management categories based on present resource conditions and potential for improvement. Selective management categorization provides a system for establishing priorities for implementing changes in grazing management. Selective management categories can be changed as additional resource data become available. Changes in categories would result in management changes appropriate to the new category, consistent with the objectives of the approved RMP.

The three selective management categories are: Maintain (M), Improve (I), and Custodial (C). The "M" category allotments will be managed to maintain current satisfactory ecological condition. The "I" category allotments will be managed intensively to improve unsatisfactory ecological condition and resolve resource conflicts. The "C" category allotments will be managed to prevent resource degradation. The "C" allotments have a low potential for improved ecological condition, improvement is not economically feasible, and/or current management is satisfactory, considering the current resource conditions.

Monitoring Studies

Vegetative monitoring studies are being conducted on public lands in the Taos Resource Area. Condition and trend studies are being established on all allotments and conducted in accordance with the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. Intensive vegetative monitoring studies, including the collection of precipitation, utilization, and actual use data, are being conducted on the "I" category allotments to evaluate changes in grazing management and to aid in the determination livestock grazing capacities.

Grazing Management Plans

Specific management prescriptions to resolve the identified resource conflicts will be developed in Grazing Management Plans. These plans will be prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the affected allottees and/or other affected parties in accordance with Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, and with input from other specialists to ensure that all resource needs are considered. The manner and extent to which livestock grazing use will be conducted and managed will be specified in these plans and will be consistent with the objectives of the RMP.

Livestock Grazing Management and Use Adjustments

Adjustments are made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock grazing on the allotment, the season of use, the Animal Unit Months (AUMs) authorized for grazing, and/or the pattern of grazing. Generally, the estimated changes in AUMs available for livestock grazing use are applicable to the "I" allotments; however, use adjustment will continue for the "M" and "C" allotments in response to changes in resource demands and conditions.

The final determination of the livestock grazing use adjustments needed will be based on a program of systematic vegetative monitoring studies as well as the current vegetative data base using the BLM New Mexico Monitoring Handbook and the Taos Rangeland Monitoring Plan as guidance in conducting vegetative monitoring studies.

Vegetative monitoring studies will also be used to evaluate the changes in resource condition resulting from grazing management practices and to evaluate the effectiveness of changes in grazing management to resolve the identified resource conflicts.

The changes in AUMs allocated for livestock grazing use can be implemented either through documented mutual agreement with the affected allottee or by a grazing decision. Adjustments implemented by a grazing decision will be based on consultation with the affected allottee and will be in accordance with the guidance in the federal regulations (43 CFR 4110.3-3). The regulations specify that permanent increases and decreases in allocations of livestock forage "shall be implemented over a five-year period...."

While the no grazing alternative was not considered feasible, practical, or implementable, elimination of livestock grazing may be advisable in selected areas where resource degradation or conflicts make livestock grazing undesirable. If this situation occurs an environmental assessment will be prepared before grazing is eliminated.

Rangeland Improvements

Additional rangeland improvements may be developed in accordance with current BLM policy. Future rangeland improvements will be designed and constructed to meet the management objectives proposed in the RMP.

The extent, location, and timing of such actions would depend on the improvements needed for each allotment, allottee contributions, and BLM funding capability, and would be developed with consideration for other resource uses. All allotments for which rangeland improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to economic analysis. This analysis will be used along with other considerations to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for the commitment of the range improvement funds needed to implement Grazing Management Plans. In general, the highest priority for implementation will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed the costs.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the forestry program is to manage forest resources to achieve multiple use goals and objectives through development of Forest Activity Plans which present specific silvicultural practices and management prescriptions.

DESCRIPTION

The western portion of the Taos RA contains substantial pinyon-juniper woodlands. It is estimated that approximately 11,000 acres are harvestable but no inventory has been conducted to verify this figure.

Northern New Mexico is characterized by the predominant use of pinyon and juniper as an alternative energy source for an estimated 85 percent of the population.

The Resource Area has less than 8,500 acres of productive timberland. These stands, scattered throughout the RA, are located primarily on the several small, isolated mountain areas common to northern New Mexico. Three SMAs, the Wild Rivers Recreation Area, Rio Chama, and Warm Springs, are identified as having timber resources. The management prescriptions for these areas will determine how these resources will be managed. Most of the forest land areas are pimarily ponderosa pine, except for the higher elevations, where typical tree zones occur.

The present available timber volume-per-acre is quite low, due to poor stecking in all age classes. Except for some stands on the better sites, most of the forest is marginal for timber production. However, timber harvesting technology has advanced to a degree that areas previously not economically feasible to harvest are now considered harvestable.

GUIDANCE

The forestry program within the Taos RA consists of managing limited ponderosa pine stands and extensive pinyon-juniper woodlands. Congress has mandated through FLPMA that the forestry and woodland program be managed on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield. The Material Disposal Act of 1947, as amended, establishes the authority under which the BLM disposes of timber and other forest products.

Ponderosa Pine

The long-term goal of ponderosa pine management in the RA is to increase reproduction and stand vigor, as well as to reduce encroachment of pinyon-juniper into the ponderosa pine stands. Providing for the long-term maintenance of the ponderosa pine stands is also a goal of the program. Existing ponderosa pine is managed for enhancement and protection of the stands rather than the maximization of forest products. All forestry practices implemented in the RA will be in conformance with standard

silvicultural practices and the 1981 environmental assessment for the Timber Management Plan (USDI, BLM 1981c), covering the BLM Albuquerque and former Socorro Districts. All activity plans developed for forestry and woodland products are examined through the NEPA process and are subject to public review and participation.

Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

The primary guidance for the woodland (pinyon-juniper) program is the Public Domain Woodlands Management Policy Statement (USDI, BLM 1982c). The long-term goals of the woodland management program in the Resource Area are to: 1) manage pinyon-juniper woodlands for multiple resource values through development of harvest prescriptions and sound management practices, and 2) encourage orderly and legal acquisition of wood products and other vegetative materials by designation of harvest areas, development and distribution of pertinent information on vegetative material sales, and cooperation in interagency law enforcement efforts.

The pinyon-juniper woodlands within the RA are managed on a sustained yield basis. The first priority sources for fuelwood supply are, when practical, dead-and-down wood from tree thinning areas. Greenwood areas are rarely utilized. Specific silvicultural standards are established at the activity planning stage and are written on a site-specific basis. The silvicultural standards are consistent with acceptable methods for the species and site.

MFP Decisions Brought Forward

Conduct individual stand analyses on productive forest lands.

Protection measures should be initiated to achieve maximum stocking of desirable species.

Weeding of undesirable species in conjunction with the thinning projects.

Treat diseased and infested productive forest lands either in conjunction with timber sales or with thinning contracts.

Acquire certain state and private lands in the northern part of TRA for the purpose of "blocking" commercial timber and pinyon-juniper stands now under partial BLM jurisdiction.

Conduct an intensive woodlands inventory on approximately 11,045 acres of commercial pinyon-juniper stands.

Following intensive inventory in the Sebastian Martin Grant, La Cienega, Buckman Canyon, Penasco, and Ojo Caliente areas, designate an adequate number of areas to accommodate present demand for minor forest products.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the wildlife program is to maintain, improve, and expand wildlife habitat on the public lands for both consumptive and non-consumptive use. This program is also responsible for the protection and recovery of federal and state listed and candidate threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

National legislation (e.g., FLPMA, the Endangered Species act of 1973, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978, and the Sikes Act of 1960, as amended) has directed the BLM to improve wildlife habitat. There are increasing demands on the wildlife resource for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses, as well as increasing competition with other resource uses, such as recreation, grazing, and fuelwood harvesting. Technical publications, studies, reports, and inventory data are used to update the TRA with respect to management objectives and techniques.

DESCRIPTION

The RA contains five broad habitats or vegetative associations: pinyon-juniper woodland, sagebrush grassland, desert shrub-grassland, mixed conifer, and riparian. The major biotic communities mapped by Brown and Lowe (1978) and described by Brown (1982) include: Petran Subalpine Conifer Forest, Petran Montane Conifer Forest, Great Basin Conifer Woodland, Plains and Great Basin Grassland, and Great Basin Desert Scrub.

Critical winter ranges for deer, elk, and pronghorn; and aquatic/riparian habitats comprise a much higher percentage of acreage in the TRA than for the remainder of BLM lands in New Mexico. Management emphasis is directed towards protection and enhancement of winter range, aquatic/riparian habitat, and T&E species.

Inventories

The TRA maintains inventory data on wildlife habitats and species occurrence. One of the most extensive avian inventories of its kind has been conducted in the Guadalupe Mountain study area. This inventory identifies species, number of species per unit-area of habitat type, habitat preference, habitat descriptions, and pesticide levels of composite samples for major species groups by habitat. This inventory will provide identification of which habitats provide the healthiest "prey bases" for threatened and endangered species. This inventory also helps identify species occurrence and habitat preference for much of the remaining RA.

Other inventories include a cooperative effort between the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources (NMDNR) and the TRA to determine population locations and potential habitats of rare and endemic plants. These and

other inventory data are used in land use planning, habitat management, multiple use decisions and the determination of impacts on Threatened and Endangered plants and animals.

Species occurrence lists for the TRA have been prepared and updated by continued small-scale inventories and individual observations. Lists of potential species occurrence, along with varied occurrence lists, are also available for both the Rio Grande and Rio Chama canyons. Aquatic inventories have also been conducted on the Chama River, Red River, Rio Grande, and Rio Embudo. The emphasis of the wildlife program in the past has been terrestrial habitat management; however, for the next 5-6 years emphasis will be shifted to aquatic/riparian habitat with the goal of increasing the aquatic and riparian habitat inventory data base and improving riparian management.

GUIDANCE

Legislation such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, as amended, have directed the BLM to improve management of wildlife habitat to meet wildlife needs in the face of increasing demands for basic energy supplies, building materials, and food products. Additional guidance is provided through the Bureau's strategic plan, "Fish and Wildlife 2000" (BLM Info. Bulletin 87-241). It is the responsibility of the BLM to identify opportunities to maintain, improve, and expand wildlife habitat on the public lands for both consumptive and non-consumptive use, and identify portions of the wildlife resource deserving special attention. Furthermore, it is Department of Interior policy (as specified in 43 CFR 24.4) that Interior agency fish and wildlife management strategies assist state agencies in accomplishing fish and wildlife resource plans. The New Mexico Wildlife Operation 1987-1995, developed jointly with the NMDGF, BLM, and USFS under Sikes Act authority provides statewide wildlife program goals.

Projects have been, and will continue to be, developed under the guidance of existing planning documents. Projects completed will continue to be maintained. Other management decisions, including studies and monitoring will also be implemented. All actions are reviewed and given site specific analysis during the environmental assessment process to determine whether the action will affect wetland or riparian areas. Also considered are impacts to resident species' habitat or habitat improvement projects. All range and watershed improvements will continue to be designed to achieve both range and wildlife objectives. This includes location and design of waters and vegetative treatment projects.

Animal Damage Control

All animal damage control activities on public lands within the TRA would be coordinated between BLM and other responsible agencies. All actions taken would be in accordance with Department of the Interior policy and the annual ADC Plan for the BLM Albuquerque District. The ADC Plan is prepared jointly by the BLM and the USDA, and is coordinated with the NMDGF.

Implementation authority belongs to the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the NMDGF.

Habitat Managment

Eight of twenty-one SMAs that contain proposals to manage wildlife habitat include: San Antonio, Wild Rivers Recreation Area, Rio Chama, Warm Springs, Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area, Sabinoso, Riparian/Aquatic Areas and Black Mesa. These SMAs would provide for the enhancement and protection of key winter ranges for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Improving habitat privacy while still providing public access is a general management objective in the SMAs. Other management objectives include promoting habitat diversity, protection and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats, increased forage availability, and non-game species considerations.

Vegetative Use

The resolution of the Vegetative Uses Issue provides for continued studies, adjustments in livestock numbers, and season of use. The management objectives are to improve or maintain forage availability and species composition and to reduce wildlife-livestock conflicts.

ORV Use

Limiting ORV traffic to existing and/or designated roads and trails will provide increased protection for wildlfe habitats and reduce harassment by ORVs. The impacts of vegetation damage, soil erosion and compaction, and the creation of new roads will also be reduced by restricting ORV use. Other ORV restrictions include seasonal use areas and limited designations that would be identified in future transportation plans. These restrictions would reduce habitat damage and improve overall habitat effectiveness for wildlife species.

LAND ALLOCATIONS

San Antonio Gorge ACEC--Develop and implement the San Antonio Gorge ACEC management plan.

Winter Range ACEC--Develop and implement the Winter Range ACEC management plan.

Aqua Caliente ACEC--Develop and implement the Aqua Caliente ACEC management plan.

Embudo Canyon ACEC--Develop and implement the Embudo Canyon ACEC management plan.

ORV Designations

Limited--San Antonio SMA
Warm Springs SMA
Riparian/Aquatic SMA

MFP Decisions Brought Forward

Maintain or improve quail and other small game habitat in their present condition and develop water sources, where appropriate, to accommodate wildlife needs.

OBJECTIVE

The soil, water, and air program emphasizes the protection, maintenance and enhancement of these resources in the Taos Resource Area. It also provides support, as needed, to other resource programs and activities.

DESCRIPTION

The resource area contains three of the six major soil regions in New Mexico. The highest and coldest, the Mountain Soil Region, is represented in the north-central portion where the topography includes steep canyons, mesa tops, foothills, and lava flows. Soils are developing on a variety of parent material and range from shallow to more than five feet thick. Textures range from moderately coarse to fine. Approximately twenty percent of the Resource Area is in this region.

The public lands on the east side of the Resource Area are located in the East Central Plains Soil Region. Thsi is an area of undulating to rolling uplands, with smooth valleys and closed basins. The Canadian River Gorge cuts through this region and has steep sides up to 1,000 feet high. Soil parent materials include deep alluvium, sandstone, shale, limestone, and acid igneous rocks. Shallow soils with cemented caliche horizons are common in undulating topography, while shallow to deep soils occur on level bottoms. Approximately ten percent of the TRA is in this region.

The remaining seventy percent of the Resource Area is located in the Western Soil Region and consists of broad mesas, plateaus, and lava flows, all interpersed with deep canyons and dry washes. The Rio Grande cuts a 200 to 800 foot deep gorge through the northern half of this region. Soils on the steeper slopes are generally shallow, moderately fine textured, and contain a high percentage of coarse fragments. Mesa tops plateaus, and lava flows have soils that are shallow to moderately deep, and moderately coarse to medium textured. Cobbles and stones are common to soils developing on floodplains, and the small areas of badlands range from shallow to deep, with medium to fine textures and few coarse fragments. Saline soils are confined to localized spots.

Erosion Condition

Based on data collected in 1978-79 for the Unit Resource Analysis (URA) portion of the Rio Grande Management Framework Plan, the erosion condition of areas within watersheds in the Upper Rio Grande Basing were described as one of the following: stable, slight, moderate, critical, or severe (USDI, BLM, 1978b). There were 13 watershed areas delineated in this portion of the Resource Area. The watershed conditions and trends are generally unchanged

since the management on these lands has not changed. The scattered tracts on the east side of the Resource Area have not been inventoried and were not included in the TRA watershed evaluation (USDI, BLM, 1986c).

Soil Surveys

Soil survey information for the entire TRA is available. Not all surveys have been published, however, and some are scheduled for updating. Soil surveys cover either individual counties or soil survey areas. The Taos soil survey covers Taos County and parts of Rio Arriba and Mora Counties.

Water Resources

The Taos Resource Area is divided into two major surface water basins. Ninety percent of the Resource Area lies in the Upper Rio Grande Basin. The remaining ten percent consists of mostly small, scattered parcels and lies within the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin, which is represented in New Mexico by the Canadian River Basin and its tributaries.

Upper Rio Grande Basin

The Upper Rio Grande Basin, as defined by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission, covers about 7,500 square miles of the Rio Grande drainage area in north-central New Mexico, and extends from the Angostura Diversion Works below Cochiti Reservoir northward to the Colorado-New Mexico state line. Principal tributaries of the Rio Grande located in this basin include Red River, Taos River, Embudo Creek and Rio Chama, all of which sustain perennial flow throughout their length; and El Rito Creek, Rio Ojo Caliente, Pojoaque River, Santa Fe River, Santa Cruz River and Galisteo River, which discharge to the Rio Grande intermittently.

Surface Water Quantity

The Upper Rio Grande Basin is the major water producing area in the Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico. In the high mountain area of this Basin, including the Sangre de Cristo, San Juan and Jemez mountain ranges, snow pack has a relatively high average annual total, a relatively low rate of evapotranspiration, and is responsible for the significant surface flows generated in the area.

The San Juan-Chama Project diverts 150,000 acre-feet of water annually from the San Juan to the Rio Grande Basin. This has increased the average annual flows in the Rio Chama and the Rio Grande below the mouth of the Rio Chama since 1972. The San Luis Valley Project is scheduled to completed in 1990 and could increase flows of the Rio Grande in Colorado by 145 cfs or 105,000 acre-feet annually.

Surface Water Quality

Water quality in the Upper Rio Grande Basin is generally good, and is suitable for most designated, beneficial uses. Measurements of surface water quality are taken regularly at USGS gauging stations located along the Rio Grande and several of its major tributaries.

Sedimentation is a major water quality problem in the Upper Rio Grande Basin, impairing range and farmlands, interrupting

irrigation systems, and reducing reservoir and stream capacity. Severe sediment production occurs during periods of high runoff.

The Rio Chama drainage is a major source of sediment production in the Upper Rio Grande, yielding an average of 1,612 tons of sediment per square mile above Chamita.

Ground Water Qualtity

The development of ground water in the Resource Area is under the administration of the New Mexico State Engineer who difines and declares ground water basins for water rights purposes. A general map of those basins can be found in a 1966 report by the New Mexico State Engineer.

The Santa Fe Formation is the major aquifer in the region. Beneath the lava plateau, along the Rio Grande, both andesite-basalt and the alluvial sediments furnish an adequate supply of moderately hard water for domestic and livestock use. The water is encountered under water table conditions at depths of about 250 to 750 feet beneath the surface, although some perched ground water tables, yielding an intermittent water supply, are found at shallow depths along arroyos. The basalt generally does not produce as much water as the deeper Santa Fe Formation.

Ground Water Quality

The quality of ground water in the Upper Rio Grande Basin is generally good. Slightly saline ground water, occurs near the confluence of the Rio Chama and El Rito Creek, in the mountainous area of central Rio Arriba county and northeast Sandoval County. Ground water in the basin is moderately hard but is generally adequate for irrigation, stock, and domestic consumption.

A five year study of water quality on the Rio Grande and Red Rivers was initiated in the fall of 1978. The study was designed to gather baseline information on surface water quality and to assess the impact of mine tailings effluent and spills on the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River System. This study was extended two years to refine the data base and to include the monitoring of ground water. Ground water was added to the study when the Molycorp molybdenum mine proposed to expand their tailings facility into an area which could impact springs within the Rio Grande Wild River System.

The Arkansas-White-Red River Basin is characterized by wide fluctuations in flow, with little base flow and significant peaks in June-August from snow melt, combined with spring rains or thunderstorms in mid-summer.

Ground water in the Arkansas River Basin is used in rural households and for watering livestock, for irrigation, and for supplying a number of municipalities. In general, the depth to ground water is less than 200 feet, with fairly large disbursed areas of depths to water of 200 to 500 feet. In most areas, ground water is difficult to obtain and at present has not been developed extensively.

The quality of ground water in the Arkansas River Basin ranges widely between aquifers, in

accordance with the solubility of the constituents of the various rocks through which the water flows. Most of the Basin is underlaid, generally at succeedingly greater depths, with aquifers of less than 1,000 feet in thickness containing fresh, slightly saline, moderately saline, and very saline waters.

Air Quality

Air quality is estimated to be better than state standards throughout the Resource Area. There are eight Air Quality Control Regions in New Mexico. State regions 3 and 4 (corresponding to federal regions 154 and 157) contain the Taos Resource Area.

The New Mexico state standards for air quality are presented in the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (NMEID) Air Quality Bureau Annual Report (1984). Within the Resource Area these standards are exceeded mainly in, or near, communities where fugitive emissions from vehicles, fires or dust degrade them periodically. Outside these communities the air quality is better due to an absence of these factors. BLM and Molycorp are cooperating to collect meteorological data at Guadalupe Mountain, near Questa, to develop a better model of potential air quality impacts.

Values for "suspended particulates" (solid or liquid matter which is dispersed in the atmosphere), the major air pollutant in regions 3 and 4, is given for each region in the Air Quality Bureau Annual Reports. Based on this information the Resource Area appears to have some of the best air quality in the state.

GUIDANCE

Soils

Participation with the Soil Conservation Service in the National Cooperative Soil Survey will continue. Continual evaluation and updating of older soil surveys is necessary to maintain a current database. Detailed soil surveys for individual projects will be conducted as needed. Soil information will be conducted as needed. Soil information will be used in planning, support, and implementation of all resource activities. Emphasis is placed on prevention of deterioration or degradation of soil and water resources as well as on their conservation.

The soils program will continue to provide support to other resource activities in the Resource Area. The program will also continue to emphasize its legal mandates of protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the soil resources.

Hydrology

Policy and guidance for the management of water resources associated with lands administered by the Bureau are summarized in Manual Sections 1621, 7000 and 7200. A brief description of the different authorities for the program is also presented.

General program emphasis is on water rights, water quality, and watershed improvement--specifically water quantity (runoff) and channel stability (sediment yield). Additionally, the water resource program provides direct input to specific situations in proposed or ongoing resource development and management programs.

Water Rights

All water rights are acquired in accordance with state substantive and procedural law except where Congress or the Executive Branch have created a federal reservation with a reserved water right.

Federal reserved water rights are defined based on the Interior Solicitor's Opinion of June 25, 1979, as modified by Solicitor Coldiron's September 11, 1981, Opinion. BLM's federal reserved water right claims are primarily associated with the withdrawal established by the Executive Order of April 17, 1926, dealing with public water reserves, and the withdrawal for converted oil and gas wells under the Oil and Gas Well Conversion Act of June 16, 1934.

Water Quality

Water quality regulation in the United States receives its basic authority from two laws. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1977, is the basic authority for instream water quality standards and maximum permissible pollutant discharges. The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 is the basic authority for domestic water quality standards.

The Bureau's water resource program includes participation with the state and EPA in water quality management. Specifically, the BLM works to ensure that management and development practices comply with state water quality standards. Monitoring of water quality in larger ephemeral drainages and water quality surveys of groud waters will be emphasized as funding allows.

Watershed Activity Plans

The hydrology program will continue to emphasize its legislative mandates of protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the resources as well as provide support to other resource activities in the Resource Area.

Air Quality

Reduction of air quality impacts from activities on public lands is accomplished by mitigation measures developed on a case-by-case basis through the NEPA or other statutory or regulatory processes. Each impact is evaluated to see if it is allowable and acceptable. Activities such as road construction and mining have dust abatement programs as part of their permits or contracts.

The BLM is required to comply with the New Mexico State Implementation Plan on air quality as well as meet responsibilities under the Clean Air Act, as amended, and FLPMA. The BLM 7300 Manual will provide administrative guidance on air resources upon approval.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the cultural resources program is to protect and manage those resources found in areas of Bureau responsibility.

DESCRIPTION

The Taos Resource Area contains archaeological and historic resources that range from PaleoIndian sites to 20th century historic sites. These sites span over 10,000 years of occupation including the mobile PaleoIndian and Archaic groups, the sedentary Anasazi, and the historic Pueblo, Apache, Ute, Hispanic and Anglo.

To date, 22,100 acres, or 3.67 percent of the public land in the TRA have been inventoried for cultural resources. A total of 654 sites have been recorded during these inventories. Based upon this rate of sites-per-acre inventoried, it is estimated that there may be 18,000 archaeological sites on the public lands within the TRA.

Two sites, San Lazaro and Hupobi, have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and 100 other sites have been determined eligible for inclusion on the register.

The pueblo ruins of San Lazaro, Ku, Hupobi, Posi and Ponsipa Akeri have been listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties.

Site types within the TRA range from "PaleoIndian lithic" to various "Archaic" special activity areas, to the full range of Pueblo sites, i.e., pueblos, garden plots, petroglyphs, ceramic scatters, and so on. There are also historic dwellings, trails, and agricultural features. Of special interest are ten large pueblo ruins, all dating to the late Coalition and Classic Periods.

GUIDANCE

The BLM's cultural resource program has two roles: primary and support. The elements in the primary role include inventory, nominations to the state and National Registers and the National Historic Landmark program, Cultural Resource Management Plans, protection of cultural properties, and issuance of cultural resource use permits. The support role focuses on the BLM's responsibilities for compliance with state and federal law, particularly with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Both primary and support activities of the program are based on legislated responsibilities outlined in the Antiquities Act of 1906, the NHPA as amended, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593, the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA), the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), and PL 96-550. Policy and management guidance are provided in BLM's 8100 manual for cultural resources.

Additional program directives can be found in the New Mexico State Office Manual Supplement series. These include 8100 (Cultural Resource Mangement), 8131 (Cultural Resource Protection), 8141 (Physical and Administrative Protection Measures), 8142 (Recovery of Cultural Resource Data), 8143 (Avoidance and/or Mitigation of Effects on Cultural Resources), 8160 (Native American Religious and Cultural Concerns), and H-8100-1 (Procedures for Performing Cultural Resource Fieldwork on Public Lands in the Area of New Mexico State BLM).

Nominations

The BLM prepares and submits nominations of significant cultural resource properties located on public lands to the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM also coordinates with other agencies and organizations in nominating cultural resources eligible for inclusion in federal and state cultural resource registry systems.

Cultural Resource Mangement Plans

Cultural Resource Management Plans (CRMPs) are planned for the Ojo Caliente, Sahiu Pueblo, Ku Pueblo, Ojo del Zorro Pueblo, Pueblo Quemado, La Caja Pueblo, Pueblo Sarco, La Cienega Mesa, San Lazaro, and Lower Embudo Special Management Areas. Other CRMPs for specific cultural resource properties and areas will be developed in the future.

Protection

Administrative measures for protection of cultural resource sites include determination of eligibility for and listing on the National Register, designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Historic Landmarks, mineral withdrawals, road closures, land acquisition, easements, and public education programs. Physical protection measures include stabilization, monitoring of site condition, patrol and surveillance programs, signing, and fencing.

Utilization

Issuance of cultural resource permits is a top priority for the cultural resources program and is mandated by ARPA. Permits are issued to qualified applicants for inventory, collection, and excavation on public land. Most permits are for non-collection and non-surface-disturbing inventory for small projects conducted prior to earth disturbing activities. Project-specific permits are issued for all projects requiring collection, testing, or excavation. The BLM is able to track and monitor activities related to cultural resource inventory, recordation, and mitigation through this permitting system.

Compliance

Section 106 requires that BLM take into account the effects of its actions or authorizations on cultural resources. The BLM's policy is to avoid

impacts to sites, but if impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation may be required prior to approval of the undertaking. Determination of effect on cultural properties is completed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and follows procedures outlined in NMSO-168. NMSO-168 is a procedural agreement issued pursuant to 36 CFR 800, the Federal Regulation which implemented Section 106 of the NHPA.

Program Direction

Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act states that it is the responsibility of each federal agency to establish a program to locate, inventory and nominate all properties under the agency's ownership or control that appear to qualify for inclusion in the National Register. The TRA's Cultural Resource program will meet its responsibilities to Section 110 by establishing a goal for completion of a 10 percent inventory of the Resource Area over the approximate 20-year life of the plan. This Class II inventory would be conducted in the retention zone, SMAs and ACECs; however, the 10 percent inventory would not be project-driven. Inventory outside the retention zone which is required prior to land exchanges or transfers also would not be included in the 10 percent inventory acreage goal.

Although the 10 percent sample would be stratified across the entire Resource Area, the initial focus will be on under-surveyed areas, including the Northern Unit (the area north and west of Taos), the Cebolla Unit (the area along the Rio Chama), and the Sabinoso Area. This sample will provide comprehensive data which may be used to determine significance of sites and enable the BLM to make well-balanced decisions for protection of cultural resources. Emphasis will also be placed on inventories needed to complete and implement Cultural Resource Management Plans.

Another goal of the Area cultural resources program is that National Register of Historic Places nominations would be prepared on a regular basis. A goal of ten nominations over the life of the RMP has been set. Nominations are important because they would strengthen the current management approach and enhance the protection of significant archaeological sites.

LAND ALLOCATIONS

Ojo Caliente SMA ACEC (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to consolidate land ownership.

Sahiu Pueblo SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions.

Ku Pueblo SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to consolidate land ownership and acquire access easement.

Ojo del Zorro Pueblo SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions.

Pueblo Quemado SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to consolidate land ownership and acquire access easement.

La Caja Pueblo SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions.

Pueblo Sarco SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions.

La Cienega Mesa SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to acquire access easement.

San Lazaro SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to consolidate land ownership and acquire access easement.

Lower Embudo SMA (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions to consolidate land ownership.

Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA (Section 5) - Implement necessary prescriptions.

ORV Designations

Limited - Ojo Caliente SMA (individual pueblo sites only)

Limited - Sahiu Pueblo SMA

Limited - Ku Pueblo SMA

Limited - Ojo del Zorro SMA

Limited - Pueblo Quemado SMA

Limited - La Caja Pueblo SMA

Limited - Pueblo Sarco SMA

Limited - La Cienega Mesa SMA

Limited - San Lazaro SMA

Limited - Lower Embudo SMA

MFP Decisions Brought Forward

Complete the Class II Survey of the Rio Grande Management Framework Planning Unit.

Acquire, through exchange or other appropriate methods, that portion of San Lazaro Pueblo on private land, and prepare a detailed activity plan to implement long term protection of the site, including structural stabilization, if necessary.

Acquire Manby springs through exchange or other appropriate means.

PALEONTOLOGY

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the paleontology program is to manage and protect the paleontological resources found on the public land.

DESCRIPTION

A variety of paleontological resources exist in the Taos Resource Area, from vertebrates and invertebrates to petrified wood and trace fossils. These occur in the Late Jurassic and Cretaceous continental sediments up through the Tertiary age sediments of the Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene Periods.

A paleontological survey and assessment was conducted in the Santa Fe Group in 1978. There have been both reconnaissance and site specific inventories, and those combining both types. Due to the high rate of erosion in these formations, much of the earlier site specific data is now unreliable. Areas that have been shown to be productive in previous reconnaissance inventories will probably continue to be important as they are potentially capable of producing important paleontological material.

The Sombrillo Special Management Area was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for paleontological resources. Within this SMA are extensive exposures of the three most fossiliferous subdivisions of the Tesuque Formation, the Nambe, the Skull Ridge, and the Pojoaque. Fossils found here are almost entirely mammalian. They include a mixture of essentially modern forms, primitive representatives of some modern groups, and unfamiliar mammals which are now extinct. Collection permits may be issued for research, museum, or educational projects.

For the most part, the paleontological resources are available for both public and scientific uses. ACEC designation of the Sombrillo SMA will facilitate preservation of a fossil record representing important evolutionary developments 15 to 5 million years ago.

GUIDANCE

In order to protect the paleontological resources, and to realize their value, paleontological resource program guidance includes the following:

(1) Facilitate paleontological research and collection on public lands.

(2) Provide for other paleontological resource uses such as education and recreation.

(3) Protect scientifically and educationally valuable paleontological resources when in conflict with other natural resources and land uses.

(4) Accord the protection provided under law to scientifically valuable fossils.

(5) Allow commercial and hobby collection of invertebrate and plant fossils under 43 CFR 8365.15.

To achieve this guidance, the paleontological resource management program will implement the following:

(1) Identify and evaluate paleontological resources so they may be adequately addressed by the BLM planning system and environmental analysis documents.

(2) Maintain and conduct an effective and continuing paleontological resources management program as part of its planning system.

(3) Increase the awareness of federal land managers and the public regarding the importance of paleontological resources and management requirements, and encourage public participation in their management.

(4) Develop volunteer or cooperative management agreements and associations with individuals, professional paleontologists, local organizations, universities, museums, and governmental entities in order to facilitate the management and protection of paleontological resources.

(5) Avoid or mitigate impacts to scientifically valuable paleontological resources at a level commensurate with their importance.

(6) Promote awareness among users of the public lands of the importance of paleontological resources in order to augment management and protection objectives. Efforts will continue to be made to avoid focusing attention on the exact location of scientifically important paleontological resources if such attention would conflict with management objectives for those resources.

LAND ALLOCATIONS

Sombrillo ACEC (Section 5) - Develop management plan and implement necessary prescriptions.

ORV Designations

Limited - Sombrillo ACEC

OBJECTIVE

The mission of the program is to ensure the continued availability of public land for a diverse array of quality resource-dependent outdoor recreation opportunities.

DESCRIPTION

Recreation Program Overview

The recreation program in the Taos Resource Area (TRA) is diverse. The program is, however, heavily involved with water-based recreation resources, including the Wild Rivers Recreation Area, the "Racecourse" section of the Rio Grande (the highest whitewater boating use section in New Mexico), the Rio Chama Scenic and Pastoral River, and the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area.

The recreation program also includes management of off-road vehicle (ORV) use, including designated use areas for special races and events. Much of the recreation use is authorized through Special Use Permits, especially for commercial use. Commercial recreation use provides one of the most important economic bases to several counties in Northern New Mexico. Recreation programs in the TRA are managed according to multiple-use principles, unless otherwise specified by law. The primary goal of the recreation program is to ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities which are not readily available from other sources. Recreation use is managed to protect the health and safety of users, to protect the natural and cultural resource values, and to promote public use and enjoyment of public lands. Priority is given to both developed and undeveloped recreation use areas experiencing resource damage, user conflicts, consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of fish and wildlife resources, or threats to visitor safety and where public investment has been made. Priorities also include the preservation of natural and cultural resources, including scenic, recreational, historic, and primitive environments.

River Management

The TRA manages three separate river sections, which together account for the majority of the commercial and the private float boating use in New Mexico. These sections are 48 miles of the Rio Grande and 4 miles of the Red River which are Congressionally designated as Wild and Scenic, the 6 mile "Racecourse" segment of the Rio Grande and 13 miles of the Rio Chama. Since the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, the Taos Resource Area has acquired about 100 acres to consolidate land ownership along these river sections. These river sections are still in the acquisition zone and additional acreage will be identified and acquired on a case-by-case basis in the future.

TRA strives to administer the river management program to protect natural resources, to promote the safety of all users of these areas, to guarantee continued public access to these river segments, and to minimize user conflicts. All competitive, commercial, and private uses of these river segments are examined on a case-by-case basis through the Special Recreation

Use Permit process. Permit stipulations for the approved users are designed to limit adverse impacts to the environment, protect and promote the safety of the user, and minimize user conflicts with other resource values. Recreation Management Plans are in use for the management of the Rio Grande (USDI, BLM, 1984c) and the Rio Chama (USDI, BLM, 1986b).

Developed Recreation Sites

Wild Rivers Recreation Area. The Wild Rivers Recreation Area, located five miles west of Questa, New Mexico, is a developed 19,090 acre recreation area adjacent to and within the Rio Grande and Red River canyons (this area was previously discussed in the Draft RMP/EIS as the Rio Grande Recreation Area). A visitor center and twenty-eight developed campsites are located above the rim. Nineteen camping sites are located below the rim and are only accessible by foot trails. Water, toilets, camping shelters, and barbeque grills are available. No recreation vehicle hookups of any kind are available at any of the developed sites.

The trail system at the Wild Rivers Recreation Area is also included in the National Recreational Trail System. The trail system is twelve miles and includes all the developed and maintained trails located within the Recreation Area. Management of this area is covered in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area Management Plan (USDI, BLM, Feb. 1988). The area provides opportunities for recreation useincluding camping, hiking, picnicking, sightseeing, and boating and has an active environmental interpretation program.

Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area. The Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area is located about 30 miles northeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The most outstanding recreational attraction here is the Santa Cruz Reservoir itself. This artificial lake was formed by the construction of a dam on the Rio del Medio and Rio Frijoles.

The Santa Cruz Irrigation District received approval of this project in 1926. This water is used for irrigation purposes in the fertile valleys below. When the lake is full it covers 110 surface acres, holds 4,000 acre-feet of water and has 2 1/2 miles of shoreline. The dam is 400 feet long and 60 feet high. The minimum "conservation pool" to which the lake can be lowered is 1,040 acre-feet, at the 25 foot level. There are 1,847 acres within this recreation area. After omitting the 110 surface acres of water within the lake itself, the remaining 1,737 acres provide a buffer zone around it.

Currently, BLM maintains 34 day-use/camping spaces, 29 shelters, and 5 outdoor toilets along the lakeshore, on the northern end of the lake, and 13 shelters and 1 outdoor toilet on a bluff overlooking the lake. Other facilities include a trail network, several parking areas, and drinking water.

The trail system at the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area is also included in the National Recreation Trail System. The trail system is 6.38 miles in length and includes Vista Valle, La Caja, and Santa Cruz Overlook Trails.

Guadalupe Mountain ACEC

The Guadalupe Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (Section 5) is located within the Wild Rivers Recreation Area Special Recreation Management Area. It requires special measures to protect sensitive resources. The ACEC was designated to protect important scenic, cultural and wildlife values.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)/Transportation

The RMP has designated all public lands in TRA as "open", "closed", or "limited". These designations are defined as follows:

(1) Open areas and trails: Designated areas and trails on the public lands where ORVs may be operated, subject only to the operating conditions set forth in 43 CFR 8341 and 8343.

(2) Closed areas and trails: Designated areas and trails on public lands where the use of vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited.

(3) Limited areas and trails: An ORV designation where the use of vehicles is subject to restrictions considered to be appropriate to correct a problem or to provide a specific recreation opportunity. Limited designation in the TRA would also apply to areas devoted to intensive ORV use. Management efforts would be more intensive for this type of designation than for open designation which normally affect the majority of lands. Restrictions may limit the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use, locations within the area where vehicles can be operated and similar situations.

All public lands in TRA are designated as "limited", (i.e., vehicles are limited to existing roads and jeep trails) unless otherwise designated.

"Open" or "closed" designations are made on a case-by-case basis to prevent unnecessary degradation of resources, to ensure visitor safety and to resolve user conflicts. Emergency closures can be made and remain in effect only until an interim or standard designation can be made, or until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures to prevent their recurrence have been implemented. Interim designations are used when the normal planning schedule does not permit the timely resolution of ORV-related issues through the RMP process.

Organized commercial and competitive ORV events are examined through the NEPA process on a case-by-case basis.

Permit stipulations for the various approved events are designated to limit adverse impacts of ORV use and provide for visitor safety.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

Congressionally designated areas are subject to Class I VRM guidelines. Wilderness Study Areas are subject to interim an Class II category. Special Management Areas recommended for and designated in the Taos RMP will contain the VRM class management objective in their prescriptions if applicable. The VRM System will continue to be the basic tool for inventory, planning, and management of visual resources on public lands. Future efforts will concentrate on updating the visual resource inventory database, protecting the quality of visual values and maintaining the established VRM class objectives. The BLM recognizes the constantly changing natural resource base and its effects on scenic quality. Each multiple-use program involved in resource development work should incorporate visual design into projects and complete visual design into projects and complete visual contrast ratings for all projects proposed for highly sensitive areas and for potentially high impact projects, regardless of location.

GUIDANCE

The RMP outlines decisions to be implemented which effect the recreation program, as well as providing a framework within which future decisions will be made.

The RMP has identified six Special Management Areas which have recreation as a dominant use (section 5). Two are developed recreation areas, three are river segments and one is to accommodate ORV use. Decisions to be implemented include developing or updating activity plans for the Special Management Areas, improved signing and acquisition of Manby Hot Springs and Ute Mountain. The remaining public lands in the Resource Area would be managed as an extensive recreation management area. Management actions to facilitate dispersed recreation use would be limited primarily to providing basic information on public safety, access and recreation opportunities, as well as conducting occasional patrols.

Future decisions must be consistent with guidance in the RMP, as well as with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

There are several laws which give important guidance to the recreation program. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides for management of outdoor recreation on public lands. Section 202(c)(9) calls for land use planning consistent with statewide outdoor recreation plans. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended, provides for protection of outstanding river resources. It requires the identification and study of rivers or portions of rivers (wild and scenic, recreational) and directs Federal agencies to cooperate with state governments. Other national laws that govern recreation management include the Wilderness Act of 1964; BLM Wilderness Management Policy, 43 CFR 8560; National Trails System Act of 1968, as

amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964, as amended; and the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, as amended. The dynamic nature of the recreation program and its close association with the Bureau's public image program and volunteer efforts may result in many shifts in management direction in the near future. Consistency may be complicated by recommendations and decisions resulting from on-going efforts like the New Mexico Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (1986), the President's Commission on American Outdoors Report (1987), the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan (1985), and guidance under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Recreation use is managed in order to protect the health and safety of visitors; to protect natural, cultural, and other resource values; to stimulate public enjoyment of public lands; and to resolve user conflicts. A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use.

Future decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis as part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatability of projects with recreation management objectives. Cooperative Management Agreements with private, state and Federal agencies for management of public lands will be pursued.

The outdoor recreation program will continue to use the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) as a basic tool for inventory and management to ensure the general public the continued variety of quality recreational opportunities. Providing opportunities for back-country recreation close to major urban areas will be stressed. Motorized vehicle recreation including off-road and off-highway vehicle use will be maintained to the greatest extent possible under existing policy. A concentrated effort will be made to locate and establish use areas and trails compatible with social and natural environments in close proximity to heavily populated areas.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (BLM Manual 8320) provides an important role in future decision making. It provides a framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation opportunity environments. As conceived, the ROS has application to all lands, regardless of ownership or jurisdiction.

Recreation opportunities can be expressed in terms of three principal components: activity, setting, and experience. Possible mixes of activities, settings, and recreation experience have been arranged along a continum, ranging from "primitive" to "urban".

LAND ALLOCATIONS

1. Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA (Section 5)--Implement Wild Rivers Recreation Area Management Plan.

2. Rio Chama SMA (Section 5)--Develop and implement Rio Chama Management Plan.

3. Racecourse ACEC (Section 5)--Develop and implement Racecourse ACEC Management Plan.

4. Santa Cruz Lake SMA (Section 5)--Develop and implement Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area Management Plan.

5. Fun Valley SMA (Section 5)--Develop and implement the Fun Valley ORV Management Plan.

6. Guadalupe Mountain ACEC--Develop and Implement the Guadalupe Mountain ACEC Management Plan.

ORV Designations

Closed--Rio Chama SMA

Limited--Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA Santa Cruz Lake SMA

Open--Fun Valley SMA

MFP Decisions Brought Forward

Develop a cooperative Management Plan with the USFS and NMDGF with respect to the joint management of the San Antonio Mountain as a Wildlife Management Area.

Acquire all of Ute Mountain (T. 31 N., R. 12 E.) for its recreational values and for the

buffer area it provides to the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and restrict mineral leasing, development, and material sale in the buffer area.

Develop a cooperative plan with the State of New Mexico, State Parks Division, in the joint management of adjacent facilities on the Wild River and the Rio Grande State Park, south of the designated wild river segment.

Work to eliminate noncompatible uses within the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.

Develop a Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River signing program to accomplish the visitor use objectives of visitor safety and natural resource protection.

Develop programs and construct facilities to better handle visitor management problems within the Wild and Scenic River.

WILDERNESS

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the wilderness program is to protect and manage designated wilderness and wilderness study areas in accordance with all appropriate laws and regulations.

DESCRIPTION

The Resource Area manages three Wilderness Study Areas. Wilderness resources in the Resource Area have been inventoried using the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook. The task of assessing wilderness suitability is being completed for the public lands in New Mexico on an accelerated, statewide basis, entirely outside of the RMP process. The first Statewide Wilderness Study Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued on May 1, 1985, and a Statewide Wilderness Study Revised Draft EIS was subsequently released in September 1986. The Final EIS will be incorporated into a wilderness study package to be submitted, through the Department of the Interior, to the President, by October 21, 1991. The President will have two years to review the document and forward it to Congress for final review and approval. A summary of the current status and recommendations for the WSAs is given in the table below:

TABLE 2-5

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSAs)

Name	Acres	Wilderness Recommendation
San Antonio	7,050	Nonsuitable
Sabinoso	15,760	Nonsuitable
Rio Chama	11,985	Suitable (amended boundary--5,232 acres

GUIDANCE

The three Wilderness Study Areas are managed under Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Land Under Wilderness Review (USDI, BLM 1979) as amended, until they are added to the National Wilderness Preservation System or removed from further wilderness consideration.

If designated as wilderness, they will be managed under the Wilderness Management Policy. If removed from further wildenress consideration, they will be managed under the principles prescribed by this RMP. The San Antonio WSA and Sabinoso WSA have been recommended by the BLM as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

This RMP makes no assumptions concerning the final outcome of the New Mexico Statewide Wilderness Study. Any recommendation made for lands within WSAs is confined to the identified RMP issues. This RMP provides management guidance for these lands if they are not designated as wilderness.

LAND ALLOCATIONS

Continue interim management until Congress determines otherwise.

Implement ORV Designations

Limited--San Antonio SMA
Sabinoso

Closed--Rio Chama SMA

Implement ACEC Designations

San Antonio SMA
Sabinoso SMA
Rio Chama SMA

FIRE SUPPRESSION AND SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE

The objective of fire management in the Resource Area is to protect and enhance the resources of the public lands in order to preserve their capability to contribute toward meeting the resource needs of the nation.

DESCRIPTION

The Resource Area contaveral types of ecological zones including open perennial grasslands, brush and sage with grass understory, Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

The Resource Area has had a total of 28 responses to fires on public lands in the last ten years. Of these, there were six false alarms (21 percent), four self-extinquishing fires (14 percent), and 18 active fires (65 percent). The active fires ranged in size from 0.1 to 1 acres.

The typical fire season in the Resource Area is relatively short, beginning in late May and early June, and ending in August. Because of the high elevation, temperatures are mild and humidity is moderate, with good moisture recovery at night. Precipitation is normally sparse during May and June, but numerous thunderstorms occur in July, August, and September.

The Resource Area provides support to the District, State, and national fire suppression efforts with personnel trained in various firefighting skills.

Prescribed burns are also conducted in support of resource management objectives. Opportunities exist for prescribed burning in support of wildlife and range management.

GUIDANCE

The District fire program is directed by legislation and Bureau manual supplements. Because of the nature of the program and the implementation of the National Interagency Incident Management System, the overall fire management program exceeds Resource Area, District, and state boundaries in support of the national program.

The Bureau is directed by departmental policy (910 DM 1.1) concerning the suppression of wildfire. The suppression of wildfire, regardless of ignition source, is a high-priority Bureau activity. The highest priority is given to the prevention of disaster fires by aggressive prevention and suppression actions.

From departmental policy and the 9211 manual, the District develops its Fire Managemen Plan, Normal Fire Year Plan (NFYP), and Fire Activity Plan (District Fire Plan). The District Fire Plan is

the activity plan that establishes how the District will operate whenresponding to a fire call.

All fires will be fully suppressed unless approved limited/conditional fire management plans are written and approved. Refer to Special Management Areas (Section 5) for recommendations if limited/conditional plans are to be developed. Bureau policy (BLM Manual Section 9210.06E) provides for limited/conditional fire suppression actions in those areas with an approved fire management plan. The need for limited suppression is normally identified by fire specialists, resource specialists, and management. Economic benefit (resource value versus cost of suppression), along with crew safety, is normally the principal objective. The decision to allow a fire to be placed under limited suppression will depend if the fire falls within the established constraints.

The Fire Management Office (FMO) and/or the Area Manager may override the plans and require the fire to be fully suppressed if deemed necessary. The established constraints for immediate and appropriate suppression are if the fire endangers life or property or if the fire threatens to cross property boundary lines (private, state, or other federal). In the case of fire emergencies, fire control vehicles shall be exempt from restrictions in designated "ORV closed areas" if deemed necessary by the FMO and/or the Area Manager.

Through the District, the Taos Resource Area is involved with the "Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of New Mexico and Federal Agencies of the Department of Agriculture and Interior." The purpose of this agreement is to provide mutual wildfire assistance between signed co-operators. This agreement is established at the State Director level. The Joint Powers Agreement is further defined by the establishment of Joint Powers Operating Plans. The Taos Resource Area is covered by the Santa Fe and Carson Operating Units. These plans establish initial attach zones of responsibility, regardless of land ownership Zones were established based on "closest force" concept, capabilities, and fire frequencies. The operating plans are approved at the District Manager level.

Section 3

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

All future resource management authorizations and actions, including budget proposals, will conform or, at a minimum, not conflict with the Plan. All operations and activities under existing permits, contracts, cooperative agreements or other instruments for occupancy and use will be modified, if necessary, to conform with this Plan within a reasonable period of time, subject to valid existing rights.

Decisions in this Plan will be implemented over a period of years. In some cases, more detailed and site specific planning and environmental analysis may be required before an action can be taken.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

There are three levels of decisions to be implemented in order to resolve the five planning issues listed in Section 1. All three levels of implementation are identified in Section 2, Management Program. The first level of implementation is to strive to meet the issue decisions which are the proposed resolutions of each planning issue. The second level of implementation is to meet the program objectives by accomplishing the program decisions listed as guidance for each resource program. The third level of implementation is to complete the land allocation decisions listed under each applicable resource program.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

After midyear, prior to establishing program packages, the Implementation Priorities Summary Worksheet (BLM Manual Form NM- 1617-1) is completed by the specialist. The output is a list of decisions to be implemented or that have been implemented and their associated target or completion dates. The Implementation Worksheet (BLM Manual Form NM-1617-2) is then completed with an outcome of management prescriptions or sequence of events with estimated cost targets and dates. For decisions to be implemented, the prescriptions and estimated costs are worked into the budget cycle process for the next fiscal year. Forms NM-1617-1 and NM-1617-2 are collected by the Branch Chiefs and given to the Planning and Environmental Contact Person for automation using the computerized system created by the New Mexico State Office for statewide RMP tracking.

The worksheets provide the basis for accountability in the development of Performance Improvement and Position Review (PIPR) elements to ensure commitment to implement the decisions of land-use planning. It is the duty of the Branch Chiefs to ensure that decisions which are to be accomplished be written into the PIPR of the responsible specialist.

PLAN MONITORING

Monitoring provides a record of the progress made in implementing the RMP. The record contains information for use in routine plan evaluations which provides a source of monitoring data to evaluate the Plan's effectiveness and usefulness in the management of public land resources. Documentation also provides information needed for the Annual RMP Report.

While implementation of the plan is the ultimate responsibility of the Taos Resource Area Manager, the overall tracking of the plan will be conducted by the Planning and Environmental Contact Person. However, the tracking of specific decisions will require a commitment from the Area Manager, Branch Chiefs, and Resource Specialists to ensure plan implementation actions are documented.

MONITORING PROCEDURES

As the decisions are implemented, the Resource Specialist responsible for the action will complete a Plan Management Worksheet (BLM Manual Form NM-1617-3) to provide a transition from implementation to tracking the decisions. The Branch Chiefs will compile each section's worksheets and file them with the Planning and Environmental Contact Person. Form NM-1617-3 will be three-hole punched and placed in the "Master RMP" in a section labeled Decision Evaluation. This section will form the basis for plan evaluation in the Annual RMP Report.

Section 4

PLAN MAINTENANCE AND EVALUATION

Plan Maintenance

The completed Taos Resource Management plan provides general guidance for management of the public lands in the Resource Area. The useful life-expectancy of the RMP is expected to be approximately 15 years. To ensure the document maintains viability and usefulness for the intended life-expectancy, maintenance of the RMP must be accomplished. Plan maintenance includes correcting errors in the text, updating data bases, and correcting map errors.

Plan maintenance is different from the two other methods of modifying land use plans (plan amendment and revision). The following three definitions are provided to clarify the differences of these types of plan modifications and provide a better understanding of what constitutes plan maintenance.

Maintenance

Plan maintenance is a minor change in data or plan material; will not change a land use decision; no NEPA document is required; no public involvement is needed; and documentation is informal. For example, a change in a word or correction of a typographical error would come under this category.

Amendment

Plan amendments are usually major changes in plan material; will change one or more decisions; will need NEPA compliance; will need public involvement; must be formally documented; and need to be signed off by the approving authority (State Director).

Revisions

Plan revisions are a total review and possible rewrite of the plan material accomplished after the useful life of the RMP has expired; many decisions could change; NEPA compliance and public involvement is required; formal documentation is required; and basically the same steps used in the preparation of an RMP are required.

Plan Maintenance Procedures

The performance of proper plan maintenance requires a commitment from the Area Manager, Branch Chief, and Resource Specialists. To encourage staff commitment, plan maintenance procedures should be uncomplicated and easily performed. The Taos RMP will use a "forms-by-number" system to provide a simple structure for maintenance including documentation procedures for land use plans.

To implement this "forms-by-number" system, the entire Taos Resource Management Plan will be three-hole punched and placed in a binder entitled "Master RMP" to allow insertion of the forms. A change index sheet, Form RMP-1 (see Figure 4-1), will also be added to the beginning of the Master

Taos Resource Area

Taos, New Mexico

RMP Maintenance Index Sheet

CHANGE NUMBER (Page & No.)	DATE	CHANGED ITEM SUMMARIZED STATEMENT

FIGURE 4-1

RMP. The change index sheet will contain the change numbers, including the page number and the change sequence for that page. For example, the second change on Page 22 would be labeled change number 22-2.

To use the system, the individual (i.e., Area Manager, Staff Chief, Resource Specialist) identifying the need for change completes Form RMP 2 (see Figure 4-2). The change number, location of change, description of change, and reason for change, including reference to other material (e.g., EA, HMP, AMP) will be legibly handwritten in ink on Form RMP-2.

When an individual initiates a change, Form RMP-2 is turned over to the Branch Chief for review, signature and incorporation into the Master RMP by the Planning and Environmental Contact Person. The change number is recorded on the index sheet (Form RMP-1) at the front of the Master RMP. The original RMP material to be changed will be lined through neatly (i.e., simply overstruck, not written over or changed) to maintain the integrity of the original material on computer disk. The change number will be plainly written in the margin on each original page and Form RMP-2 will be placed in the Master RMP preceding the changed page.

This plan maintenance section should assist the Area Manager and staff in keeping the plan usable until it is amended or revised. It is probable that information in any maintained RMP will be used as a basis for updating the plan. If the plan is not kept up to date a very valuable planning data source will be lost. When implemented, the "forms-by-number" system will assist in meeting the planning regulations covering plan maintenace. In addition, the system will ensure the Area Manager has a usable plan for day-to-day program direction and annual work plan development.

Plan Evaluation

A formal evaulation of overall plan adequacy must be accomplished at a minimum at the end of every fifth year after plan completion. To assist in this process a yearly evaluation will be completed in the Annual RMP Report. The purpose of the yearly evaluation is to measure "what is" versus "what should be." Thus the effectiveness of plan implementation will be measured by the level achieved in accomplishing plan decisons, program objectives and completing the land allocation decisions identified in Section 2.

Evaluation Procedures

The yearly evaluation will be documented in the Annual RMP Report along with the Rangeland Program Summary updates and other pertinent information. The evaluation will focus on implementation of plan decisions as discussed in Section 2. The evaluation, at a minimum, should cover the points below.

Plan Change No. _____

(Relates to Change Number on Form RMP-1)

Page _____
Section _____
Heading _____

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

Change:

(Describe exact rationale for above change, to include reference material i.e. EA, RMP, IM.)

Reason:

Signature as Appropriate:

Resource Specialist _____ Date _____

Branch Chief _____ Date _____

Area Manager _____ Date _____

FIGURE 4-2

1. What is the status of implementing Special Management Area prescriptions? What is the status of ACEC implementation plan completion?

2. How many easements were acquired? What is the status of completing ORV designations? Were any emergency closures initiated?

3. What is the status or rangeland monitoring?

4. How many land ownership adjustment proposals were initiated and/or completed?

5. How many rights-of-way applications were received? How may were issued?

6. What is the status of meeting program objectives for each resource program? What program-specific decisions were implemented to accomplish the objective?

7. What is the status of implementing the land allocation decisions under each responsible program? What management prescriptions and planned actions were accomplished?

Section 5

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

INTRODUCTION

This Section contains general descriptions of 21 Special Management Areas (SMAs) which include nine Areas of Critical Enviromental Concern (ACECs). SMAs are areas requiring special management by BLM to protect one or more resource values. SMAs may include non-public lands that BLM wishes to acquire or to bring under a Cooperative Management Agreement to better manage the valued resource. At a minimum, an activity plan will be prepared for each SMA.

ACECs are areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

The narratives for each SMA and ACEC include a general description, the management objectives, management prescriptions and a location map. No maps are included for the Cultural Resource SMAs because these sites are sensitive and could be subject to vandalism. The descriptive narratives of the SMAs vary due to the nature of the management attention each area has received. Detailed activity plans will be developed and will contain more specific information. The Management Objectives and Prescriptions identified provide the reader with the general management emphasis the SMA will receive. As indicated, all or portions of several SMAs are designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

It should be noted that as the BLM obtains new resource data, the boundaries and Management Prescriptions of the SMAs may be modified. Additionally, new SMAs and/or ACECs could be identified and designated in the future. In either case, a plan amendment would most likely be required.

The SMAs are listed on the following page.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS AND ACECS

Recreation

Wild Rivers Recreation SMA*
Guadelupe Mountain ACEC*
Rio Chama SMA*
Racecourse ACEC*
Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area SMA*
Fun Valley SMA*
Sabinoso SMA*

Wildlife

San Antonio SMA
  San Antonio Gorge ACEC*
  Winter Range ACEC
Warm Springs SMA*
  Aqua Caliente ACEC
  Embudo Canyou ACEC*
Riparian/Aquatic Areas SMA
Black Mesa ACEC

Cultural Resources

Ojo Caliemte ACEC
Sahiu Pueblo SMA
Ku Pueblo SMA
Ojo Del Zoro Pueblo SMA
Pueblo Quemado SMA
La Cajo Pueblo SMA
Pueblo Sarco SMA
La Cienega Mesa SMA
San Lazaro SMA
Lower Embudo SMA

Paleontology

Sombrillo ACEC

*Indicates that more than one resource value is being managed for protection.

General Description: The San Antonio SMA, totalling 83,000 acres, is located north of Tres Piedras, New Mexico. It runs south, from the Colorado State line near Los Pinos, and is bordered by the Carson National Forest on the west (See Map 5-1). It extends east to include the small, isolated volcanic mountains, Pot Mountain (Cerro de la Olla) and Wind Mountain (Cerro del Aire). Based on public comment, the boundary of the SMA was expanded to include quality habitat for elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. The area encompasses the existing San Antonio/Pot Mountain Wildlife Habitat Area.

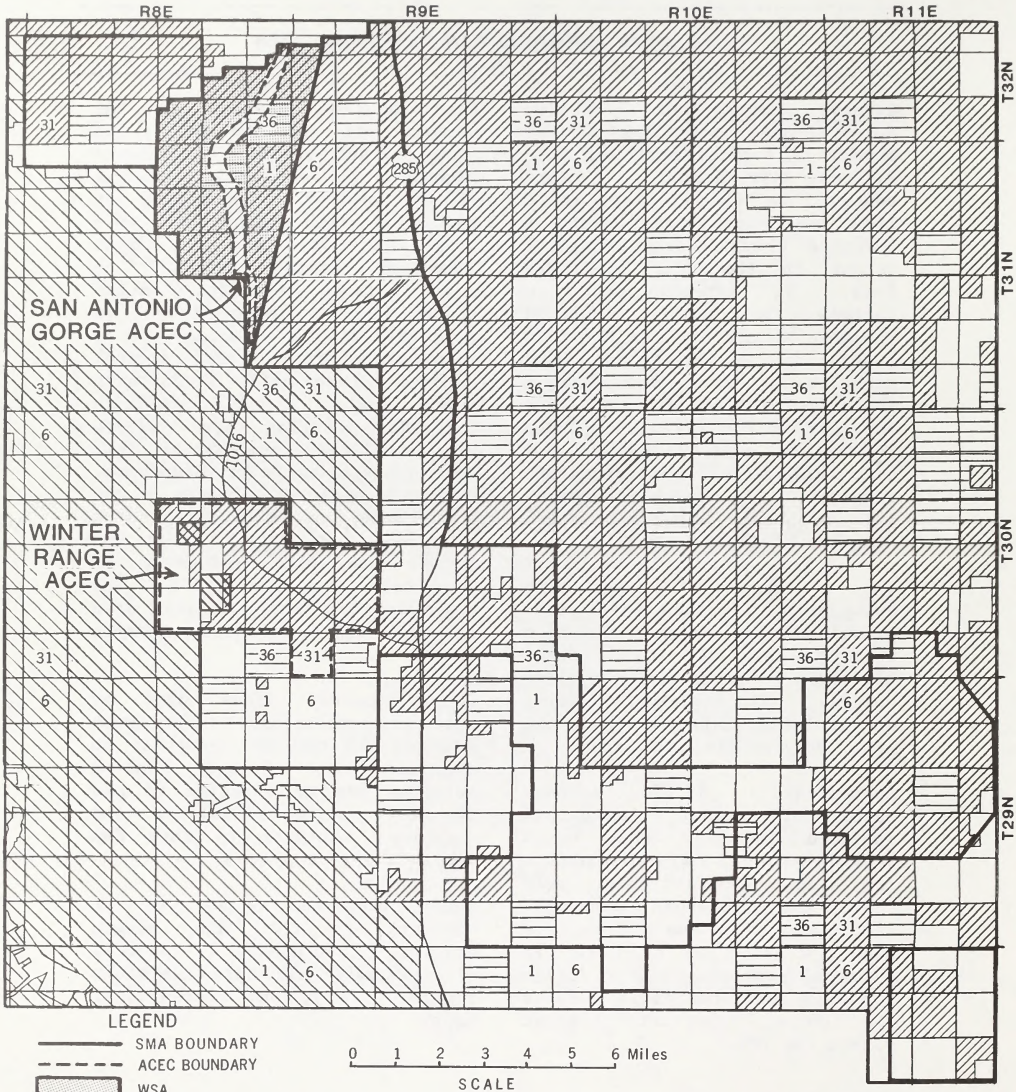
The major vegetative associations include half shrub grasslands on high elevation rolling uplands, mixed shrub hillsides, sagebrush rolling uplands, pinon-juniper hills, and isolated stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and aspen.

Approximately 49,880 surface acres of public land are included in this SMA, which provide crucial winter habitat for rocky mountain elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. Essential migration zones are also included in the SMA. In terms of providing winter forage for wild ungulates, this area is the most important habitat within the TRA.

Elk use is heaviest in the western half of the SMA. The area on and around San Antonio Mountain is extremely crucial winter habitat. Department of Game and Fish identified this area in 1984 as the most important winter habitat on public lands in the entire state. Each winter 1,000 to 1,500 elk can be expected to move into this area from several hundred square miles of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. During more severe winters larger numbers of elk move to Wind and Pot Mountains. Pot Mountain provides the stabilizing core habitat, an area with dense protective cover and forage base, which maintains the long term deer population. The most limiting factor of this area is the lack of adequate thermal cover.

The wintering areas used by antelope populations overlap with much of the habitat important to deer and elk. Several hundred antelope can be expected to use the half shrub grasslands and sagebrush habitats in this SMA during a severe winter.

Other resource values in or adjacent to the SMA include grazing, woodland products, mineral materials sales, mining, rights-of- way, and recreational uses.



MAP 5-1

SAN ANTONIO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

The San Antonio Wilderness Study Area (WSA-NM-010-035) is located within the San Antonio SMA. This is a 7,050 acre tract (See Map 5-1) presently recommended as "unsuitable" for wilderness designation. However, it will be managed under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (USDI, BLM, as amended, 1983). This management emphasis will continue until Congress decides which lands are suitable for wilderness designation.

San Antonio Gorge ACEC

The San Antonio Gorge ACEC (547 acres) is located northwest of San Antonio Mountain. The creek flows almost due North for approximately 6 miles through public lands before entering the Rio Los Pinos. The area provides significant wildlife, natural, and senic values. The gorge cuts through the basalt plain and is several hundred feet deep with many vertical walls. The narrow canyon is in many ways very similar to the Rio Grande Gorge except on a small scale. For example, the vegetation in this area demonstrates the inverted ecosystem with ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and aspen desending down the canyon. The canyon walls provide excellent habitat for prairie falcons, and other birds of prey. A wide diversity of passerine birds also use the canyon and riparian zone. Numerous trails cross the canyon providing important winter movement zones for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn.

Winter Range ACEC

The Winter Range ACEC (6,688 acres) includes public lands south of San Antonio Mountain, within T. 30 N., R. 8 E., Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, and T. 30 N., R. 9 E., Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, and 31. This area is the most significant wildlife habitat in the Resource Area. It provides yearlong habitat for elk, mule deer and pronghorn, with large wintering populations moving into the area. This ACEC is considered to be the most important elk winter range on public lands in the State. ACEC designation provides for continuation of a variety of multiple use and protection of the remaining important habitat components.

Management Objectives:

Management of the San Antonio SMA includes protection of thermal cover, in both crucial winter ranges and summer ranges, for elk, deer, and pronghorn antelope. The TRA will work with the NMDG&F and the Carson National Forest to determine herd size objectives for the winter range. Habitat objectives

include improving both forage quality and vegetative cover, and increasing habitat diversity. Management of the San Antonio SMA would emphasize wildlife habitat and scenic values as the highest priority over other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the SMA. The San Antonio/Pot Mountain HMP would be revised to incorporate these management objectives.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Require reclamation of all mineral extraction operations according to approved reclamation plans or upon completion of the mining operation.

2. Close 520 acres to mineral material sales in the Los Cerritos de la Cruz area (See Map 5-1). Evaluate all mineral sale proposals on a case-by-case basis in the remainder of the SMA. Wildlife values would be of primary importance in establishing mitigating measures for all mining operations.

3. Institute seasonal restrictions on Road 1016 (primarily to restrict snowmobile use).

4. Existing ORV restrictions will be maintained around San Antonio Mountain. Any new ORV restrictions would be identified in the ORV Designation Plan.

5. Wildlife seedings will be re-evaluated to determine total available forage. Livestock grazing will be limited and managed to ensure enhancement of critical elk and pronghorn winter range.

6. Fully suppress any wildfires that would threaten thermal cover or elk migration routes.

7. Complete and implement a management plan for the San Antonio Gorge and Winter Range ACECs which provides special protection for vegetative and wildlife values including monitoring studies and a grazing plan.

8. Oil and Gas Stipulation 1 will be implemented within the SMA (See Appendix A).

9. No surface occupancy or any material sales will be allowed

within 500 yards of a developed wildlife water in the entire HMP.

10. Acquire state and private lands within the SMA through purchase or exchange.

11. Intensively manage and monitor all fuelwood sales to improve wildlife habitat. All forestry activities will be conducted in a manner to improve and expand thermal cover conditions.

12. No increase in the existing grazing preference will be permitted.

13. Wildlife habitat improvement projects will continue to be planned and implemented throughout the SMA

14. San Antonio Creek will be offered the same protection provided in the Riparian/Aquatic SMA and will be evaluated for ACEC designation.

15. VRM considerations will be given first priority behind wildlife values in evaluating all proposed actions within the SMA

16. Revise the San Antonio/Pot Mountain HMP to incorporate the above Management Prescriptions.

WILD RIVERS RECREATION SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

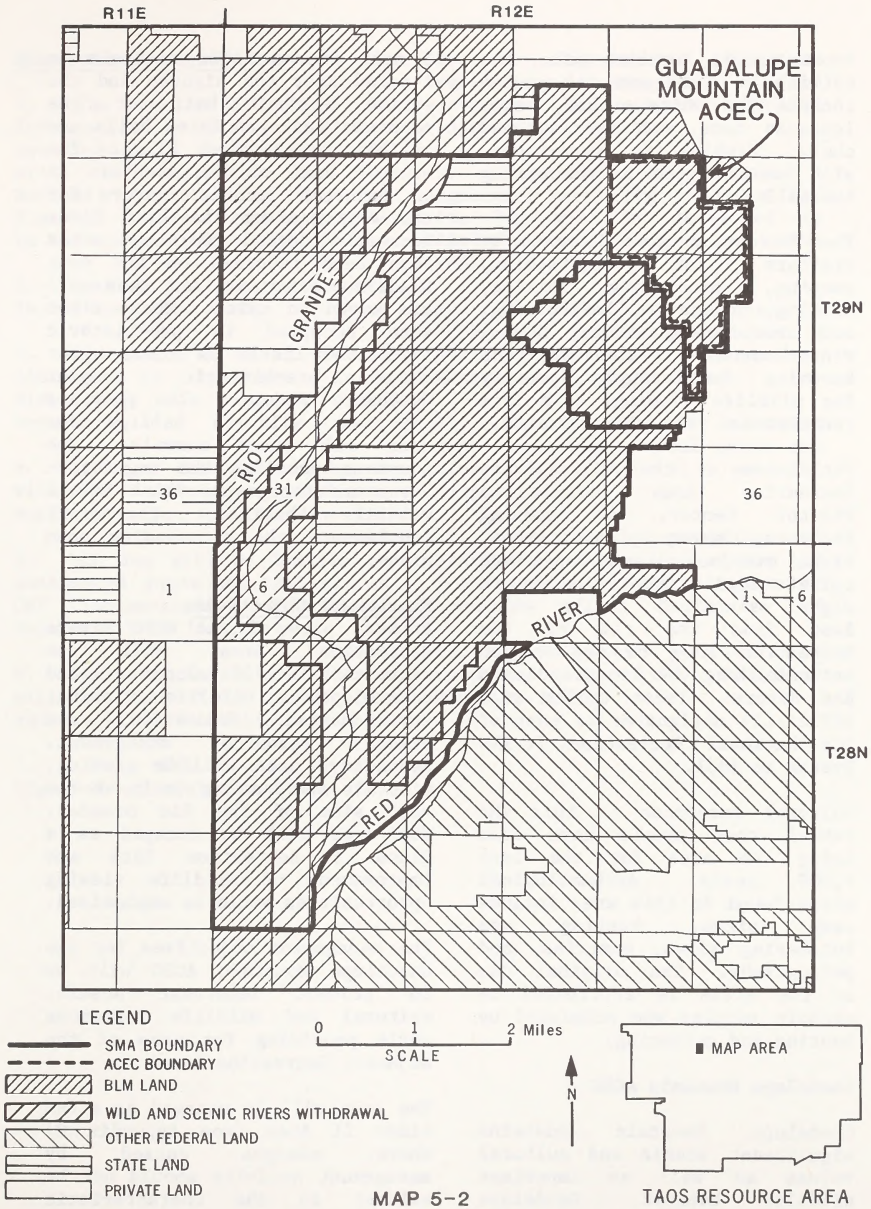
General Description: The Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA (20,310 acres) is located at the confluence of the Rio Grande and Red River, 22 miles south of the Colorado/New Mexico border, in Taos County (see map 5-2). The SMA contains a portion of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, which was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968. It also includes the Guadalupe Mountain ACEC (1,220 acres).

Landforms common to the SMA include mountain areas, rolling foothills, flat open mesas, arroyos, and steep canyon rims overlooking a 700-foot deep and one mile wide canyon gorge. These landforms provide striking visual contrasts for the visitors to the recreation area. Elevation varies from 8,480 feet at the foothills along Guadalupe Mountain to 7,230 feet in the flat, open mesa area at La Junta Point.

Vegetation is quite varied and includes ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest, pinon-juniper woodland, sagebrush and grasses. Shrub species include mountain mahogany, gooseberry, golden currant, Gambel's oak, yucca, barberry, broom snakeweed, and winterfat. Major grass species include western wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian ricegrass, blue gramma, galleta, sleepy grass, pine dropseed, and side oats gramma.

The Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA provides habitat for a diverse number of wildlife species. The mix of pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce, Douglas fir, oak understory, and open, grassy meadow provides excellent forage for wildlife, as well as abundant access to water. There are 249 potentially occurring wildlife species in the area. Game species include mule deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear, and turkey. Other species include bobcat, coyote, grey fox, porcupine, white-tailed jackrabbit, prairie dog, squirrel, chipmunk, and badger. Bird species include red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, rough-legged hawk, golden eagle, bald eagle, osprey, prairie falcon, American kestrel, great-horned owl, raven, barn owl, grouse, mourning dove, quail, and many other species. One of the most extensive avian inventories of its type has been conducted in this SMA. Over 130 avian species were recorded during one breeding season. The peregrine falcon, an Endangered species, is also known to frequent the SMA while hunting. Bald eagles are also a common winter resident. Reptile species include the collared lizard, horned toad, bull snake, and prairie rattlesnake.

The Rio Grande/Red River is considered to be one of the best trout fisheries in New Mexico. Game fish include rainbow and



MAP 5-2

TAOS RESOURCE AREA

WILD RIVERS RECREATION AREA
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

brown trout, Northern pike, and catfish. Non-game species include the white sucker, carp, longnose dace, and the flathead chub. Fishing is year-round, with heaviest use in the spring and fall.

The Recreation Area is used by visitors for sightseeing, camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, access to floatboating, and crosscountry skiing during winter months. The area is becoming increasingly popular for wildlife viewing, both from vehicles and from hiking trails.

Facilities at the Wild Rivers Recreation Area include a Visitor Center, 47 camping shelters, seven picnic areas, eight overlooks, and water and toilet facilities. There are eight maintained trails which lead from the rim of the Recreation Area to the canyon bottoms along the Rio Grande and Red Rivers. These trails were officially designated as part of the National Recreation Trails System in 1981.

Cultural resources in this SMA reveal that people have been using the area for the last 7,000 years. Archaeological sites found in this area include camp sites, hunting and butchering sites, quarries, and petroglyphs. The original use at the sites is attributed to archaic peoples who subsisted by hunting and gathering.

Guadalupe Mountain ACEC

Guadalupe Mountain contains significant scenic and cultural values as well as important wildlife habitat. Guadalupe Mountain is an important scenic feature for travelers on Highway 3 near Questa. The mountain is located near the highway and the entire eastern half of the mountain and associated hills are visible for several miles. The western half of the mountain is an important scenic feature for the entrance to the Wild River Recreation Area. Cultural sites have been recorded on and near Guadalupe Mountain, and many more are known to exist. These sites were occupied in pre-historic times and little is known about these pre-historic people. Guadalupe Mountain also provides important wildlife habitat for deer and other mammals. The mountain provides the vegetative cover and topography which from a wildlife habitat standpoint, complements the surrounding open areas.

Management Objectives:

Primary uses of the Wild Rivers Recreation Area will be recreation (developed and undeveloped), wildlife viewing, environmental education and visual resource management. Secondary uses will be grazing, minerals and hunting (only on the west side of the Rio Grande). The area will be managed as a Class I Recreation Site and improvement of wildlife viewing opportunities would be emphasized.

The management objectives for the Guadalupe Mountain ACEC will be to protect important scenic, cultural and wildlife resources while providing for uses of the adjacent Recreation Area.

The area will be managed as a VRM class II Area (see Appendix C) where changes caused by management activity should not be evident in the Characteristic landscape.

Management Prescriptions:

1. The entire SMA will be inventoried for cultural resources, and appropriate sites will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural resources will be interpreted for the public.

2. Grazing will be eliminated in the loop road area.

3. Suppression of fires will be limited to methods least disturbing to soils and vegetation.

4. Oil and Gas Stipulation 2 will be implemented for the entire SMA (See Appendix A).

5. ORV use will be limited to designated roads and trails. An ORV Implementation Plan will determine this limited use.

6. Fuelwood and timber sales will be limited to those that enhance wildlife habitat.

7. The SMA will be a right-of-way exclusion area.

8. A cooperative management agreement with the NMDGF will be developed to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

9. A cooperative management agreement with the military and the FAA will be developed to limit aircraft flights over the SMA.

10. The Wild Rivers Recreation Area will be designated as a National Recreation Area and a Management Plant developed.

11. The SMA will be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry and closed to mineral material disposal.

12. Initiate acquisition of state and private land within the SMA boundary through purchase or exchange.

13. A management plan will be completed for the Guadelupe Mountain ACEC.

RIO CHAMA SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Rio Chama SMA (6,680 acres) is associated with the BLM section of the scenic Rio Chama Canyon (See Map 5-3), which is adjacent to the USFS Rio Chama Wilderness. A Wild and Scenic River Corridor of 1,690 acres is also contained in this SMA. The river and its associated canyon environment attract thousands of river-running enthusiasts each spring and summer, on two and three-day float trips. It also provides opportunities for fishing and hiking. This SMA is currently under consideration for both wilderness and "Wild and Scenic River" designation.

The landscape is characterized by a 200- to 800-foot deep canyon cut into various layers of shale and sandstone, which provides striking contrasts in both color and topography. The vegetation varies from mixed pinon-juniper to ponderosa pine forest, riparian habitat, and northern desert grassland.

Wildlife inhabiting the canyon area includes a variety of game and non-game species. Birds of prey and cavity nesting birds occupy the cliffs. Big game known to frequent the canyon floor include elk, deer, bear, mountain lion, and turkey. Waterfowl which visit the riparian zone include ducks, mergansers, and geese. Riparian mammals include beavers and raccoons. The aquatic habitat contains brown and rainbow trout, as well as populations of native minnows and suckers. The upper reaches of this section of the Rio Chama have the potential to become an excellent trophy trout fishery.

Known cultural resources within the SMA include Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Pueblo Period sites. Several historic homesteads dating from the mid-1800's to the 1940's have been located.

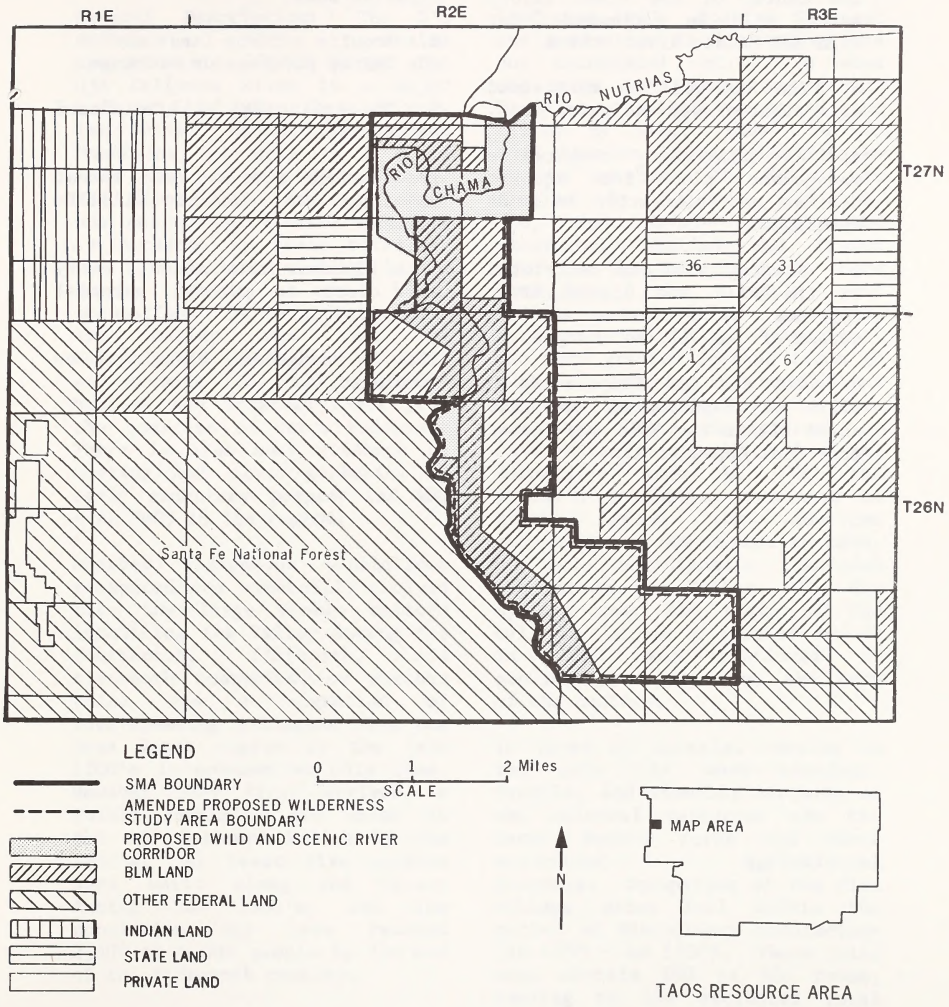
Management Objectives:
Management of the Rio Chama will focus on the wilderness qualities of the canyon, existing wildlife and aquatic habitat, and the education of visitors in boating safety and low impact camping.

The area will be managed for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) semi-primitive non-motorized use (within the canyon) and semi-primitive motorized use (on the rim).

The SMA will be established as a Class I Visual Resource Management (VRM) area if the Rio Chama SMA is designated as either a Wilderness Area or Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The rim and canyon areas are presently VRM Class II, where changes caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.

Management Prescriptions:

1. No surface disturbance will be allowed.



MAP 5-3

RIO CHAMA

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

2. The area extending out one quarter to one half mile from the center of the river (1,690 acres) will be recommended for Wild and Scenic River status.

3. The SMA will be maintained as a right-of-way exclusion area.

4. An interagency cooperative management plan for aquatic habitat and recreation will be developed.

5. Grazing will be restricted in the Wild and Scenic River Corridor by exclusion or the season of use will be changed.

6. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented on 1690 acres within the Wild and Scenic area (See Appendix A).

7. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression except in the riparian zone.

8. Acquire private lands within the SMA by purchase or exchange.

9. The entire SMA will be closed to ORV use.

10. Manage woodland and forest resources to enhance wildlife values.

11. Withdraw from mineral entry and close to mineral material sales.

12. A Management Plan will be completed.

General Description: The Ojo Caliente ACEC contains approximately 17,700 acres. The Ojo Caliente River is a major tributary of the Chama River. The river drains the Tusas Mountains, as well as a broad area west of the Rio Grande. The flood plain averages about one quarter of a mile wide and is bordered by steep terraces. The Ojo Caliente Valley has a long history of human occupation. It is probable that the valley was used by Paleo-Indian (BC 9500 - BC 5500) and Archaic (BC 5500 - AD 400) hunters who obtained chert from the quarries of Cerro Pedernal. There is also some evidence of hunting and plant gathering by early sedentary peoples (AD 400 - AD 900) in the region.

Whether indigenous populations prospered and eventually evolved into the large Pueblo culture inhabiting the Valley during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, or whether there was a migration of Tewa-speaking villagers from the Mesa Verde region in the late 1200's is unknown at this time. However they first arrived, a Pueblo community did exist in the Ojo Caliente Valley by the 1200's. At least five pueblos were built along the Valley during the 1300's, and the population may have reached 2,000 to 5,000 people by the end of the fifteenth century.

Apparently the Ojo Caliente Valley had been abandoned by the time of the Spanish exploration of northern New Mexico, between 1540 and 1600. Spanish interest and activities in the valley are not documented until 1735 when the first land grant was given. Forty-six families occupied the Valley by 1744. They fled in 1748 because of repeated attacks by the Apaches. The Valley was visited by Apache, Commanche, Ute, and Navajo groups who alternately raided and traded with the Spanish residents there throughout the 1700's and 1800's. From 1753 to 1793, settlers including "genizaros" who were granted Spanish lands in such frontier communities returned to the Valley from time to time. With the arrival of fifty-three new families from the Bernalillo area in 1793 the Valley's population continued to grow. After the American occupation of New Mexico in 1846, a few non-Hispanic families settled in the Valley. The hot springs near the plaza of Ojo Caliente became a tourist resort in 1880 and continued in popularity until after the turn of the century.

In terms of material remains in the area the most abundant, fragile, and visually striking of the cultural resources are the large Pueblo ruins and their associated agricultural features. Occupation of the five village sites fall within the period of Biscuitware manufacture (AD 1350 - AD 1550). These ruins each contain 200 to 500 rooms, leading to the estimated total population of 2,000 to 5,000 inhabitants by the end of the fifteenth century. The Tewa names for the sites, Posi,

Hupobi, Howiri, Nute, and Ponsipa-Akeri, were collected by Harrington (1916), who surveyed the Valley with the help of guides from the Pueblo of San Juan. Several of the sites are mentioned in Tewa legends (Bandolier, 1892; Ortiz, 1969). Numerous shrines, some of which are currently used by the modern Tewa villages, are located in the area. It is estimated that agricultural features cover in excess of 200 acres, primarily along the east side of the Valley.

Management Objective:

The management objective for the Ojo Caliente ACEC will be to preserve cultural and interpretive values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the ACEC which will encourage scientific research, including excavation.

2. Complete nominations for sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Complete a Class III cultural resource inventory.

4. Exclude grazing from pueblo ruins, and other areas where serious conflicts with cultural resources are apparent.

5. Implement an ORV plan limiting pueblos to authorized users and limiting the remainder of the SAEC to designated roads and trails.

6. Withdraw the pueblos (40 acres) from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

7. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 for pueblos (40 acres) and Stipulation 1 for 13,160 acres for remainder of SMA (see Appendix A).

8. Acquire private lands, through purchase or exchange, on which the pueblos of Nute, Howiri, and portions of Posi are located.

9. Acquire state lands within the SMA through purchase or exchange.

10. Limit suppression of fires.

11. Backfill all vandalized areas of the pueblos.

12. Acquire easements as necessary to ensure legal access to the major sites.

General Description: The Warm Springs Special Management Area (13,030 acres) is located about 12 miles south of Taos and two to three miles east of the Rio Grande (see map 5-4). Its mixed stands of conifer and ponderosa pine provide habitat diversity and thermal cover important to elk and mule deer. The area also provides habitat for wild turkey, mountain lion and black bear. Other uses include hunting, pinon nut picking, fuelwood gathering, timber harvesting, mining (historically), and recreational viewing of wildlife and scenery.

Embudo Canyon ACEC

The Embudo Canyon ACEC (1,060 acres) is a five mile long, deep box canyon unique to the surrounding area, which offers outstanding scenic and recreation opportunities and is important to wildlife. The ACEC contains portions of two state sections, which are desired for acquisition by exchange.

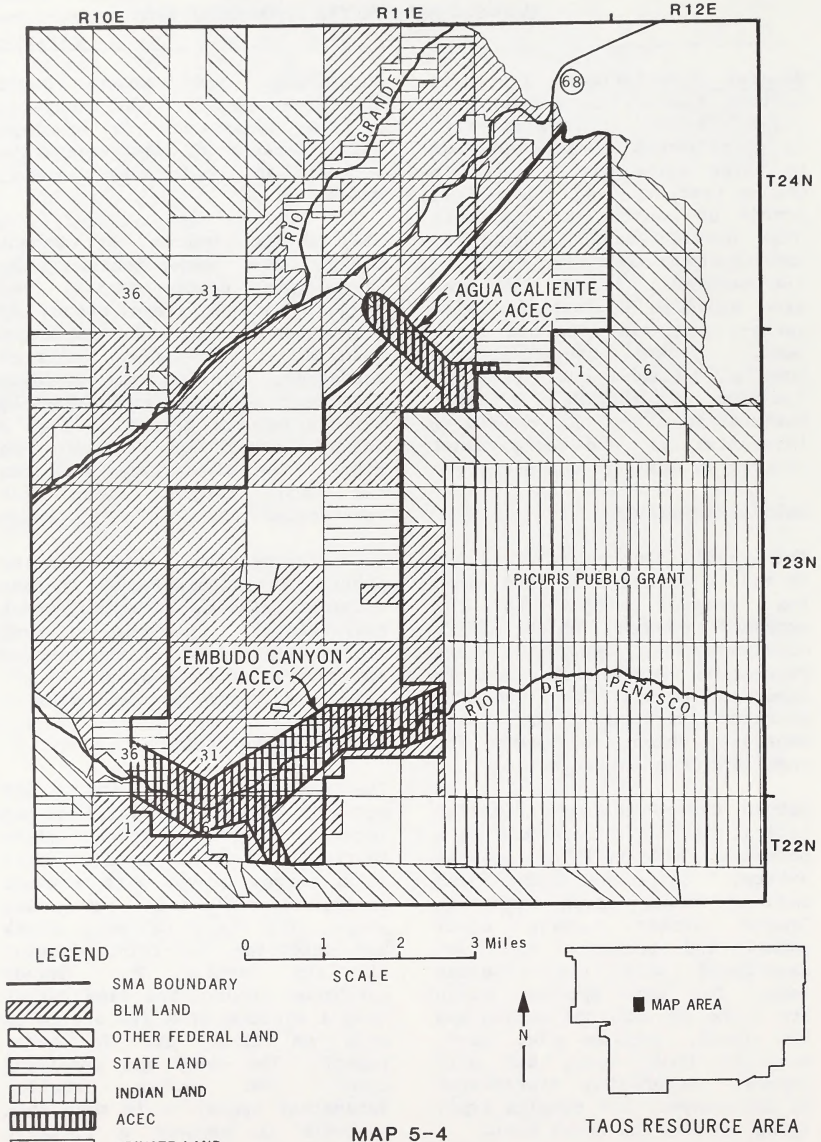
Embudo Canyon contains riparian habitat and the Rio Embudo is a perennial stream. The aquatic habitat contains brown and rainbow trout, along with Rio Grande sucker. Many small mammals and species of birds are associated with the riparian zone. Big game species, which are found in both the canyon and rim areas, include elk, deer, mountain lion, bear, and wild turkey. Vegetation represented in the canyon is a complex type, lying between the Great Basin shrublands and Great Basin shortgrass region. The ecosystem of the Embudo Box is of high value because of its vegetative variety and year-round flowing water.

The scenic values of Embudo Canyon are exceptional. The canyon is deep, narrow, and rugged, with a green ribbon of vegetation lining the creek on both sides. The canyon walls of sandstone, basalt, and granite have been sculpted and shaped by various natural forces to form a unique array of colors and forms. The views from both the rim and canyon floor are spectacular.

The recreation opportunities provided by Embudo Canyon include fishing, hiking, swimming, rock collecting, hunting, and sightseeing. Most of the current use of the ACEC is by people who live in surrounding communities.

Aqua Caliente ACEC

The Agua Caliente ACEC (580 acres)is a small perennial stream located about fifteen miles southwest of Taos. Agua Caliente is a narrow canyon with a small creek, approximately two miles long. The Agua Caliente Creek has potential for reintroduction of the native Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The flow ranges from a minimum of a few cfs to as much as 12-15 cfs in heavy runoff. The creek has excellent cover and water quality parameters appear to be more than adequate to support a fishery,



MAP 5-4

WARM SPRINGS

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

even with the low flows. The steep canyon is a pinon-juniper/mixed-shrub community while greater vegetative diversification occurs along the narrow riparian zone. A 15- to 20-foot waterfall provides a natural fish barrier to other competitive species.

Management Objectives:
The Warm Springs SMA area will be managed to maintain or enhance winter range habitats for big game, to improve and protect aquatic habitats for the Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Agua Caliente Creek, and brown and rainbow trout in Embudo Canyon. Along with other wildlife values, primitive recreational opportunities and visual values would be recognized as the highest priority.

Management Prescriptions:

1. With the exception of ACECs, all woodlands and forestry resources will be managed to enhance wildlife habitats. The ACECs will be closed to fuelwood and timber harvesting.

2. Acquire state and private lands within the SMA by purchase or exchange.

3. Complete a management plan for the Aqua Caliente and Embudo Canyons ACECs.

4. Exclude grazing from the ACECs.

5. The ACECs will be right-of-way exclusion areas.

6. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 1 on the entire SMA and stipulation 3 in the ACECs. (See Appendix A).

7. Prepare a management plan in cooperation with the NMDG&F to enhance wildlife and fisheries values in the Aqua Caliente and Embudo Canyon ACECS.

8. Restrict ORV use to designated roads and trails in the SMA.

9. The ACECs will be withdrawn from mineral entry and closed to mineral material sales.

10. Evaluate the Embudo Canyon for Wild and Scenic River designation.

RACECOURSE ACEC

General Description: The Racecourse section of the Rio Grande, consisting of 2,020 acres, is a twelve mile stretch of river between Pilar and Velarde, New Mexico (See Map 5-5). The Rio Grande State Park is located two miles from the north end of the ACEC. The ACEC consists of a portion of the Rio Grande and the riparian areas on both sides of it. Landforms along the Racecourse section include steep canyon walls on the east side and more gradual sloping banks on the west side of the river. The elevation ranges from 6,250 feet at the northern end to 6,040 feet at the southern end.

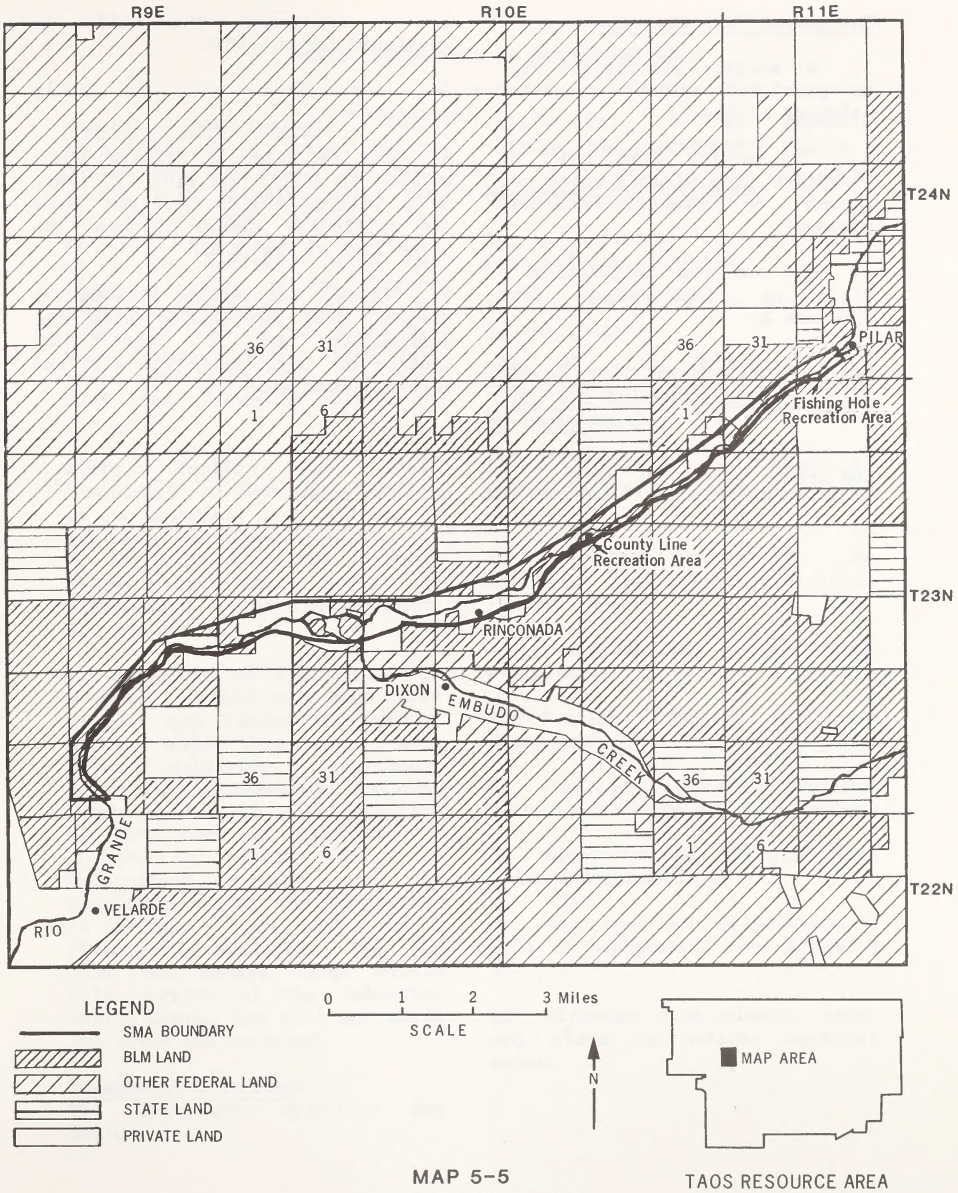
Vegetation along the Rio Grande includes willows, salt cedar, woody shrubs, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, broomsnake weed, Russian thistle, cactus, poison ivy, and cottonwoods. Grasses include blue gramma, Indian ricegrass, and western wheatgrass, along with riparian vegetation along the river banks.

Wildlife species along the Rio Grande include beaver, muskrat, porcupine, and coyote. Rattlesnakes, bullsnakes, and watersnakes also live along the river banks. Waterfowl and raptors can be seen along the river during migration and nesting seasons. Turkey vultures, ravens, mourning dove, quail, and many other bird species are also found along the Rio Grande.

Fishing use is year-round, with the heaviest pressure in the spring and fall. Game fish include rainbow and brown trout, northern pike, catfish, and small-mouth bass. Non-game species include white sucker, carp, long-nose dace, and flathead chub. The ACEC provides unusual fisheries opportunities and outstanding scenic values. The area includes Highway 68 which has scenic views from roadside stops. The area is also the most heavily used section of whitewater in New Mexico, having over 18,000 floatboaters in 1986. The two BLM recreation sites located on the Racecourse, the Fishing Hole and the County Line, had over 40,000 visitor days in 1986 associated with fishing, picnicking and hiking.

Management Objectives: Management of the Racecourse section of the Rio Grande will emphasize recreational use, consistent with recognition of local residents' concerns. A secondary objective is protection of wildlife values, which contribute to the recreational demands for fishing, wildlife viewing, and general sightseeing. Protection of the riparian habitat will be a major management objective in the effort to integrate recreation and wildlife values.

The Racecourse ACEC will be managed as a Class II VRM area where any changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) caused by management activity will not be evident in the natural landscape.



TAOS RESOURCE AREA

MAP 5-5

RACECOURSE

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Prescriptions:

1. No surface disturbance will be permitted subject to valid existing rights.

2. The entire ACEC will be withdrawn from mineral entry and closed to mineral material disposal.

3. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented (See Appendix A).

4. The ACEC will be an exclusion area for additional rights-of-way.

5. Grazing will be excluded in the area.

6. A management plan will be completed for the ACEC.

7. Any fires will be fully suppressed.

8. Acquire selected private lands within the ACEC boundaries (if there is a willing seller, and the lands are critically needed to meet the objectives of the ACEC).

9. Evaluate the section between the Fishing Hole and County Line for designation as a recreational section of river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

SAHIU PUEBLO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: Sahiu Pueblo SMA is a large Classic Period (ca. AD 1325 - AD 1600) pueblo ruin situated along the Rio Grande near Velarde, New Mexico. It consists of mounds on a low terrace beside the river. Erosion at the terrace edge has destroyed some of the rooms and most of the plaza has been eroded. Small areas have been vandalized and a county road goes through a portion of the site.

Sahiu Pueblo was first identified to Harrington (1916) as an ancestral Tewa village by his San Juan Pueblo informants. It was also discussed by Mera (1934) in his survey of Biscuitware sites in northern New Mexico.

The majority of the pueblo is probably located on public lands within the Sebastian Martin Grant, which has never been legally subdivided. It cannot be determined precisely who owns which part of the pueblo; however, much of the site is located on public land. An independent survey must be completed before the boundaries in the area of the pueblo can be discerned. Basically, the BLM does not manage lands within this portion of the Sebastian Martin Grant, and will not until the lands are surveyed.

Management Objective:
The management objective for Sahiu Pueblo will be to preserve cultural and interpretive values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. A cadastral survey of the area will be completed.

2. Excavation of the site will be encouraged.

Pending full excavation of the site, the following measures will be implemented:

1. Complete a detailed archaeological mapping and recordation of the site.

2. Nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Limit the SMA to authorized ORV users.

4. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

5. Implement limited physical protection of the site, as needed.

6. Fires in the SMA will have limited suppression.

7. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented (see Appendix A).

8. Withdraw from mineral entry and close to mineral material sales.

KU PUEBLO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Ku Pueblo SMA occupies the southwestern portion of an isolated mesa that borders the Chama Valley near the community of Chili. It is a large, multistoried adobe and cobble pueblo. It has an enclosed plaza with two kiva depressions, and two isolated kivas or shrines located east of the pueblo. On the basis of the ceramic assemblage, Ku would appear to date from approximately A.D. 1375 - A.D. 1500, or perhaps a little later (Smiley, Stubbs, and Bannister, 1953; Breternitz, 1966), and is, therefore, a classic Biscuitware site. The Ku Pueblo SMA consists of 65 acres.

The site of Ku (Ku-uinge, "Stone Pueblo Ruin" Harrington, 1916) was first reported by J. A. Jeancon (1911), who speculated that the ruin got its name from an isolated column of light-colored tuff which stands in the low-lands near the mesa on which the ruin is located.

In addition to the work done by Jeancon and Harrington, Ku was also visited and surveyed by Mera (1934) and Hibben (1937). More recently, in 1975, the site was visited and recorded by archaeologists from the New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology. Excavations in the Chama Valley have been undertaken by Hibben (1937) at Riana Ruin; Wendorf (1953) at Te'ewi; Luebben (1953) at Leaf Water Ruin; Peckham (1974) at the Palisade Ruin; and Florence Ellis at Sapawe (Unpublished).

Management Objective:
The management objective for Ku Pueblo will be to protect cultural resource values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Inventory and record the SMA in detail.

2. Nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Withdraw the site from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

4. Exclude grazing from the site.

5. Limit ORV use of the site.

6. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (See Appendix A).

7. Backfill the vandalized areas.

8. Implement a patrol and surveillance program.

9. Develop and implement a Cultural Resource Management Plan.

10. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

11. Acquire access easement to site.

OJO DEL ZORRO PUEBLO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Ojo del Zorro Pueblo SMA occupies the top of an outlying butte of the badlands directly north of the Santa Cruz Valley near Chimayo, New Mexico. The site is named after a small spring located nearby, which was known historically by the same name. Mera (1934) was probably the first archaeologist to identify the site during his survey of the Biscuitware area in northern New Mexico. The Ojo del Zorro Pueblo SMA consists of 24 acres.

The site is a small pueblo ruin consisting of 10 to 20 rooms. A small portion of the site has been exposed by illegal excavations which resulted in uncovering the adobe walls of two rooms. Ongoing erosion of the badlands is rapidly destroying the site.

Based on pottery collected from the surface of the site, the pueblo dates to the fourteenth century. The pueblo's unique attribute is its location on an isolated butte in the badlands, a good distance from arable land. This is also the reason it is considered to be a defensive site.

Management Objective:
The management objective for Ojo del Zorro Pueblo will be to protect the cultural resource values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. A detailed recordation and mapping of the site will be completed.

2. The ruin will be excavated to salvage scientific information.

3. Fires in the SMA will have limited suppression.

4. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented (see Appendix A).

5. Withdraw from mineral entry and close to mineral material sales.

PUEBLO QUEMADO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Pueblo Quemado SMA is a large ruin located on the top of a flat ridge along the Rio Quemado in the broken foothills west of Chimayo, New Mexico. The site consists of three large room blocks defined by high, vegetated mounds. The Pueblo Quemado SMA is approximately 159 acres in size.

One of the room blocks is on public land while the other two are on the Nuestra Senora del Rosario San Fernando y Santiago Grant. The portion on public lands is in very good condition with no evidence of illegal excavation.

One of the room blocks on private land has been extensively disturbed due to the longtime use of the site by local people for removal of adobe dirt for landfill and construction, and the use of the area as a garbage dump.

Mera, in his "Survey of the Biscuit Ware Area in Northern New Mexico" (1934), refers to the site as "Wiyo". It is possible, therefore, that Pueblo Quemado may be the type site for the Wiyo Black-on-White pottery type. The pueblo can be dated ceramically to the Classic Period, which began in the early fourteenth century.

Even though Pueblo Quemado is a major Classic Period site in close proximity to the populated areas of Chimayo, it has not been studied in any systematic way. The site has tremendous research and interpretive potential and needs to be managed in the future.

Management Objectives:
The management objectives for Pueblo Quemado SMA will be to protect cultural resource values, and to develop recreation potential.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete an inventory and detailed recordation of the SMA.

2. Complete a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

3. Nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (See Appendix A).

5. Withdraw the site from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

6. ORV use will be limited.

7. Exclude the ruins from grazing.

8. Acquire through purchase or exchange all portions of the pueblo that are located on private lands.

9. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

SANTA CRUZ LAKE RECREATION SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area SMA consists of 640 acres and is located thirty miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in Santa Fe County (See Map 5-6).

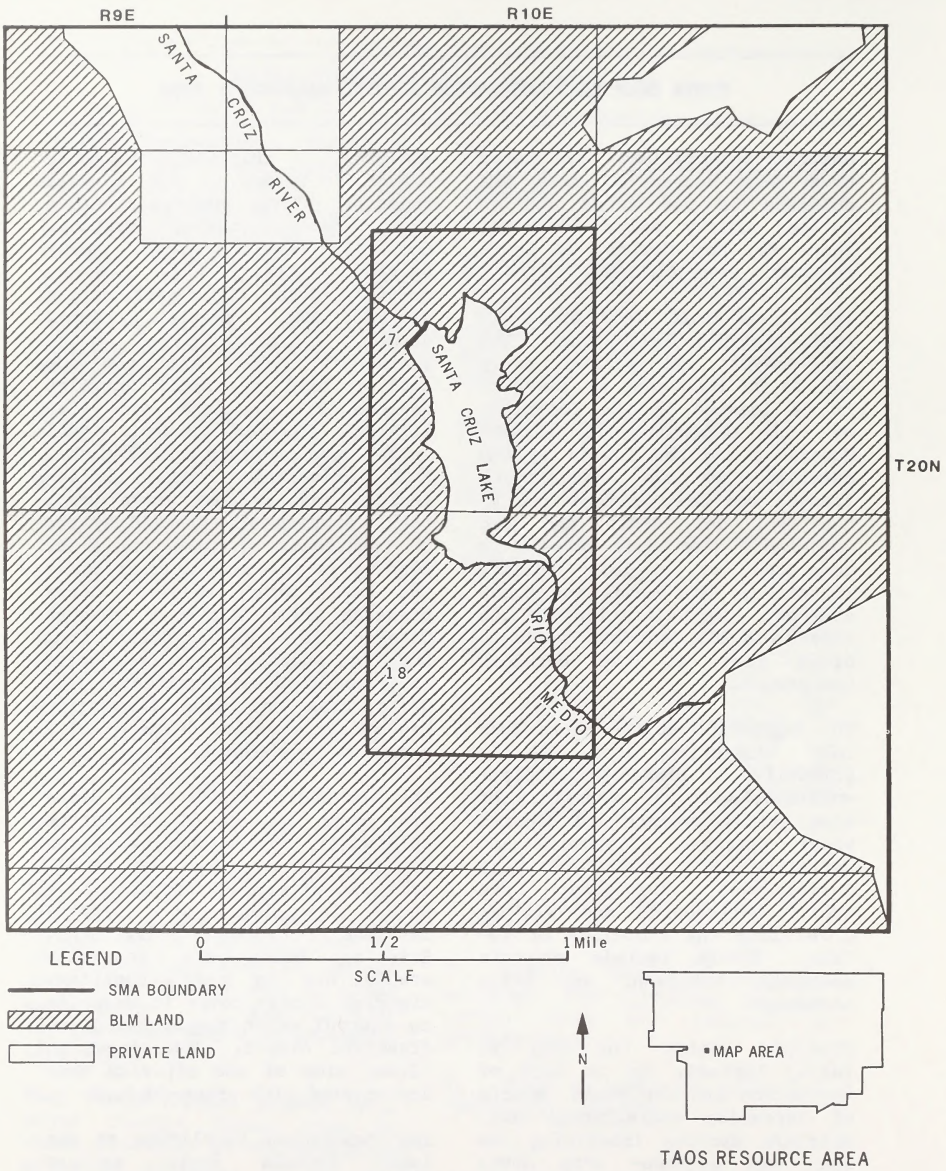
The Santa Cruz Dam, built in 1928, is 535 feet long. The lake covers 121 surface acres and is 90 feet deep at the dam. It is located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and was formed by the creation of the dam which flooded the deep arroyos fed by the Rio del Medio and Rio Frijoles. The local terrain is comprised of rugged, rolling foothills, with mesas and steep canyons. The elevation at the lake is 6,285 feet and rises to 6,660 feet at the Overlook Campground.

The vegetation at the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area SMA is primarily pinon- juniper woodland, with an understory of blue grama, western and crested wheat grasses. Sagebrush and varieties of cacti are also interspersed throughout the area. Cottonwoods and willows grow along the shoreline of the lake. Shrubs include mountain mahogany, oakbrush, and broom snakeweed.

Wildlife within the SMA is fairly limited, due to lack of vegetation and the human impacts of intensive recreational use. Wildlife species inhabiting the lake and surroun- ding areas include mule deer, bobcat, coyote, cottontail, jackrabbit, squirrel, chipmunk, skunk, beaver, racoon, and small rodents. Bird species include duck, goose, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, blue heron, mourning dove, roadrunner, great horned owl, magpie, raven, dipper, redtailed hawk, Swainson's hawk, and numerous smaller bird species. Reptiles include the collard and tree lizards, garter snake, bull snake, and western rattlesnake. The principal fish species include rainbow and brown trout both of which are stocked by the NM Department of Game and Fish. Fishing is the main attraction at the lake, which receives heavy pressure from April 1 through October 31. The fishing from both the shoreline and from boats is rated fair-to-excellent. The State Fish and Game Commission has recently extended the fishing season to year-round.

The Rio Medio, which feeds Santa Cruz Lake, is one of the better cold water trout fisheries in the Resource Area (See Map 5-6). Lake and stream improvements have been installed to provide instream habitat diversity. Existing banks are generally stable and in good condition. Riparian stream cover is adequate to control water temperatures and dissolved oxygen. The slopes on either side of the riparian zone are covered with pinon-juniper.

The recreation facilities at the lake include forty shelter camping sites, water and toilet facilities, boat launching and



MAP 5-6

SANTA CRUZ LAKE RECREATION AREA

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

mooring areas, and six miles of developed trails. These trails were officially designated as part of the National Recreational Trails System in 1981.

Management Objectives:

Primary use will emphasize recreation (developed and undeveloped), cultural resources and riparian and aquatic habitat management. The SMA will be managed as an intensive Recreation Site, and will be proposed as a National recreation Area. A management plan will be developed for the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area.

Secondary use will include livestock grazing. Prohibited uses would include ORV use, mineral development and commercial timber sales.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Exclude grazing in developed sites in the recreation area.

2. Limit ORV use to designated roads; no ORV use will be allowed on trails.

3. No significant surface disturbance will be permitted.

4. Designate the area as a right-of-way exclusion area.

5. Develop in conjunction with SMA 12 (La Caja Pueblo) for interpretation. Separate Planned Actions have been developed for La Caja Pueblo SMA.

6. Develop a management plan for the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area.

7. Fully suppress any fires.

8. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented within the SMA (See Appendix A).

9. The SMA will be closed to all mineral material sales.

10. Complete a lake shoreline inventory to determine possible improvements to the aquatic shoreline habitats.

LA CAJA PUEBLO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: La Caja Pueblo SMA is a large pueblo ruin located within the Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area west of Cundiyo, New Mexico. The pueblo is situated on the edge of a flat ridge top, overlooking La Caja box canyon, between the confluence of the Rio Medio and Rio Frijoles, and Santa Cruz Lake. The site is in the high vegetated mounded category, denoting a series of room blocks, which partially surround two plazas. The size of the mounds indicates the possibility that the pueblo originally had two stories. No kiva depressions are evident although it is possible that one or more are located within the plaza areas. Analysis of ceramics collected from the site suggest that the pueblo dates to the early fourteenth century. La Caja Pueblo SMA comprises 85 acres.

La Caja Pueblo was overlooked by early archaeological surveys in the area. The first record of the site is a survey report filled out by archeologists from the Museum of New Mexico in 1973.

Considering its close proximity to Santa Cruz Lake, the pueblo ruin is in exceptional condition. Recreation potential exists for its future excavation and public interpretation, since it is located within an existing recreation area.

This SMA includes both La Caja Pueblo and the flat ridge top on which it is located. This ridge top was likely dry farmed during the period of occupation of the pueblo and should yield evidence of prehistoric farming technologies, as well as other activities associated with the pueblo.

Management Objectives:
The management objectives for La Caja Pueblo SMA will be to protect cultural resource and interpretive values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete an inventory and recordation of site data.

2. Nominate the site to National Register of Historic Places.

3. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

4. Withdraw the site from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

5. Limit the site to authorized ORV users.

6. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (See Appendix A).

7. Exclude the SMA from grazing.

8. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

PUEBLO SARCO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Pueblo Sarco SMA is a medium-sized pueblo ruin, approximately 10 acres in size, located on a small, flat ridge top adjacent to the Rio Sarco. The pueblo, located between Cundiyo and Nambe, New Mexico, is situated within the high, broken foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The area is heavily vegetated with pinon, juniper, and other species of the woodland ecological zone.

The site was first mentioned by Harrington as a nameless pueblo ruin which he claimed was "one of the homes of the ancestors of the Nambe people" (1916:380). Mera described the site in connection with his survey of the Biscuitware area of northern New Mexico in 1930. He refers to the ruin as a "nameless, defensive village located on the Rito Sarco" (1934:5).

Florence Hawley Ellis (1964) studied Nambe Pueblo in 1962, compiling data to be used in the tribe's land claim. Ellis referred to Pueblo Sarco as "K'ate Ouinge," and dated it to the Biscuit A Phase (AD 1350 - AD 1425) of the Classic Pueblo Period. According to Ellis, K'ate Ouinge was one of three villages inhabited by the Nambe people in defensive locations in the high pinon-covered foothills above the Sarco and Frijoles Rivers between AD 1350 and AD 1425 (1964:39). Ellis further stated that "according to tradition, the defensive situations of the Nambe pueblos of this period (except Nambe itself) resulted from fear of raiders, but modern informants cannot say who the raiders were" (1964:41). During the Biscuit B Phase (AD 1425 - AD 1550), these defensive sites were abandoned and the Nambe people merged together at Nambe Pueblo.

Management Objective:
The management objective for the Pueblo Sarco SMA will be protection of cultural values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete the inventory and recordation of archaeological data within the SMA.

2. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

3. Nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Withdraw the site from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

5. Limit the site to authorized ORV users.

6. Exclude the SMA from grazing.

7. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (see Appendix A).

8. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

General Description: La Cienega Mesa SMA, totalling 1,493 acres, consists of hundreds of panels of rock art located along a five mile section of the Santa Fe River Canyon. It also includes large ruins, known as Pueblo Cienega, on top of La Cienega Mesa, a 200 foot high mesa located at the confluence of the Santa Fe River and La Cienega Creek. Atop the mesa is a grassy meadow with some shrubs, while the bottom land has lush, riparian vegetation with oak and deciduous shrubs. Hundreds of rock art sites were located during a volunteer project in 1987.

The area has pithouses, pueblos, and a Spanish hacienda. The major pueblo is located on the eastern edge of the mesa top and con- sists of 50 to 75 adobe rooms with at least three kivas. Two smaller pueblos of six and fifteen rooms each, both of which include a depression (pithouse or kiva), are located on the western part of the mesa. N. C. Nelson, excavated parts of nine room blocks in 1915, clearing 44 rooms during an excavation sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. Analysis of pottery collected from the site indicates that the pueblo dates primarily to the Coalition Period (AD 1200 - AD 1325).

Abundant petroglyphs of birds, frogs, snakes, horned snakes, geometric figures, and human figures have been carved on the cliffs and boulders. Evidence indicates that the art is of Rio Grande style and probably is associated with the large pueblos on the mesa. A portion of the rock art was recorded by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, Rock Art Field School in 1974 under the direction of Colonel James G. Bain (Bain, 1974).

Management Objective:
The management objective of La Cienega Mesa SMA will be to protect cultural and interpretive values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete an inventory of the site and record archaeological data.

2. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

3. Nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Withdraw the Santa Fe River Canyon and La Cienega Mesa (953 acres total) from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

5. Limit the SMA to authorized ORV users.

6. Exclude La Cienega Mesa from grazing.

7. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (See Appendix A).

8. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

9. Acquire legal access to the SMA.

General Description: San Lazaro SMA, totalling 77 acres, is one of the largest pueblo ruins in the Galisteo Basin, south of Santa Fe. This village, estimated to contain 1,950 rooms, is divided into two parts by Arroyo del Chorro, an intermittent stream which flows north to Galisteo Arroyo about two miles distant. The western portion is primarily prehistoric while the eastern portion was occupied historically. The site occupies low and rolling open terrain, surrounded by scattered juniper.

The prehistoric ruin on the west side of Arroyo del Chorro is composed of fourteen separate or semi-contiguous masonry room blocks. Of these, two are located on a low promontory several hundred feet south of the main concentration of rooms. Five refuse mounds are located at scattered points around the site. No kiva depressions are evident, according to N. C. Nelson (1914) who conducted test excavations at the site in 1912.

The main portion of the historic pueblo surrounds a single plaza. A kiva depression is located near the southwestern corner of the plaza and two large refuse mounds are located adjacent to the outer south walls of the room block. The remains of a small church are located about fifty feet east of the main room block. Modern use of the area is visible in the form of the ruins of a lime kiln, several small houses, and a series of walls.

A reservoir, possibly of aboriginal construction, is located about 700 feet northeast of the historic ruin. Other cavities eroded in the sandstone bedrock were used to collect run-off by means of a series of channels pecked into the rock.

Pottery collections from the two parts of the pueblo indicate that the site underwent periods of localized abandonment. It would appear that the prehistoric portions of the east ruin were vacant from about AD 1475 to AD 1600, while the west ruin continued to be occupied during this period. Subsequently, during the seventeenth century the west ruin was abandoned and the east ruin was re-occupied. Thus, at least part of Pueblo San Lazaro was continuously occupied over a period of almost five hundred years.

According to the interpretations of some historians and archaeologists, Pueblo San Lazaro was in ruins when Coronado passed through the area in 1540. The early Spanish documents, however, present a confused picture of the route taken by Coronado, and it is possible that he did not see the village, since it is located away from the valley of Galisteo Creek.

Pueblo San Lazaro was re-occupied, or at least experienced a population increase, at the time of the introduction of permanent missions in the area, probably in

the late 1500's. A chapel was constructed at San Lazaro, but the village remained a "visita" of the mission at Pueblo San Marcos.

The inhabitants of Pueblo San Lazaro participated in the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680 and, sometime prior to 1692 when Don Diego de Vargas found them, they abandoned the village and moved to a new location near present-day Santa Cruz. A short time later they fled west to the Hopi villages in Arizona and founded the still existing pueblo of Hano.

Pueblo San Lazaro is already listed as a National Landmark. As such, it is also included on the National Register of Historic Sites. Most of the historic portion of the site is located on public lands while the largest portion of the prehistoric ruin is on private land.

Management Objective:
The management objective for San Lazaro will be to protect cultural resource values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Inventory the SMA and record the sites.

2. Complete a Cultural Resources Management Plan.

3. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 2 (See Appendix A).

4. Withdraw the sites from mineral entry and close to mineral material disposal.

5. Limit the site to authorized ORV users.

6. Exclude the SMA from grazing.

7. Acquire the entire pueblo, or dispose of the public portion to another agency, to improve overall management of the area.

8. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

9. Acquire legal access to the SMA.

FUN VALLEY SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Fun Valley SMA, totalling 19,200 acres, is located two miles northeast of Espanola, New Mexico, in Rio Arriba County (See Map 5-7). The area is characterized by flat, wide arroyos and rolling foothills. Some of the areas in the northwestern corner of the SMA are very steep escarpments with high, sharp, highly-eroded ridges. The area is largely desert and few water sources exist other than ephemeral drainages in the arroyos. Elevation ranges from 5,748 feet in the southwest corner to 7,400 feet on the east boundary.

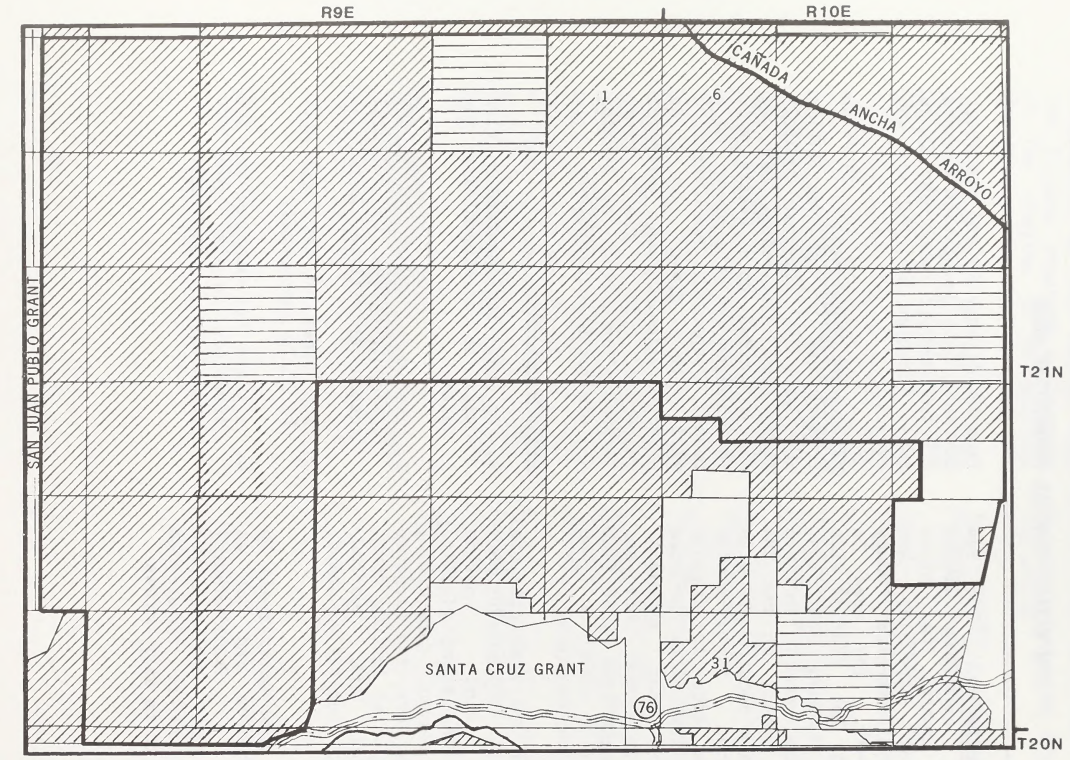
Vegetation in the area consists mainly of pinon-juniper, sagebrush, and native shortgrass. The major wildlife species are coyote, jackrabbit, badger, skunk, fox, and kangaroo rat. Bird species include dove, quail, horned lark, sparrow, finch, crow, red-tailed hawk, and vulture.

The area is used extensively by off-road vehicles and has an approved Environmental Assessment which allowed an enduro and desert motorcycle race track. It is easy access from NM Highway 68 and its short distance from population centers and residential areas make it an ideal location for ORV use and events.

Management Objectives:
Primary use of the Fun Valley SMA will be off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Individual ORV use and organized race events will be directed to this area. As a result, special consideration will be given to the paleontological and cultural resources in the area. Secondary uses will be grazing and mineral material sales.

Planned Actions:

1. An ORV Implementation Plan will be developed for the area.
2. Trails that impact paleontological or cultural resources will be closed.
3. Any fires in this SMA will be fully suppressed.
4. A Class III Cultural and T&E inventory in the "open" ORV areas will be completed.



MAP 5-7

FUN VALLEY
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description:
The Sombrillo SMA is a paleontological area located south of the Santa Cruz River, along the east side of NM 4 and NM 520, totalling 8,865 acres of public land (see Map 5-8). Also within this area are two state sections. This area is bounded generally on the west by Pojoaque Bluffs, on the north by Santa Cruz River, on the east by Santa Cruz Dam, and on the south by the Nambe Pueblo Grant.

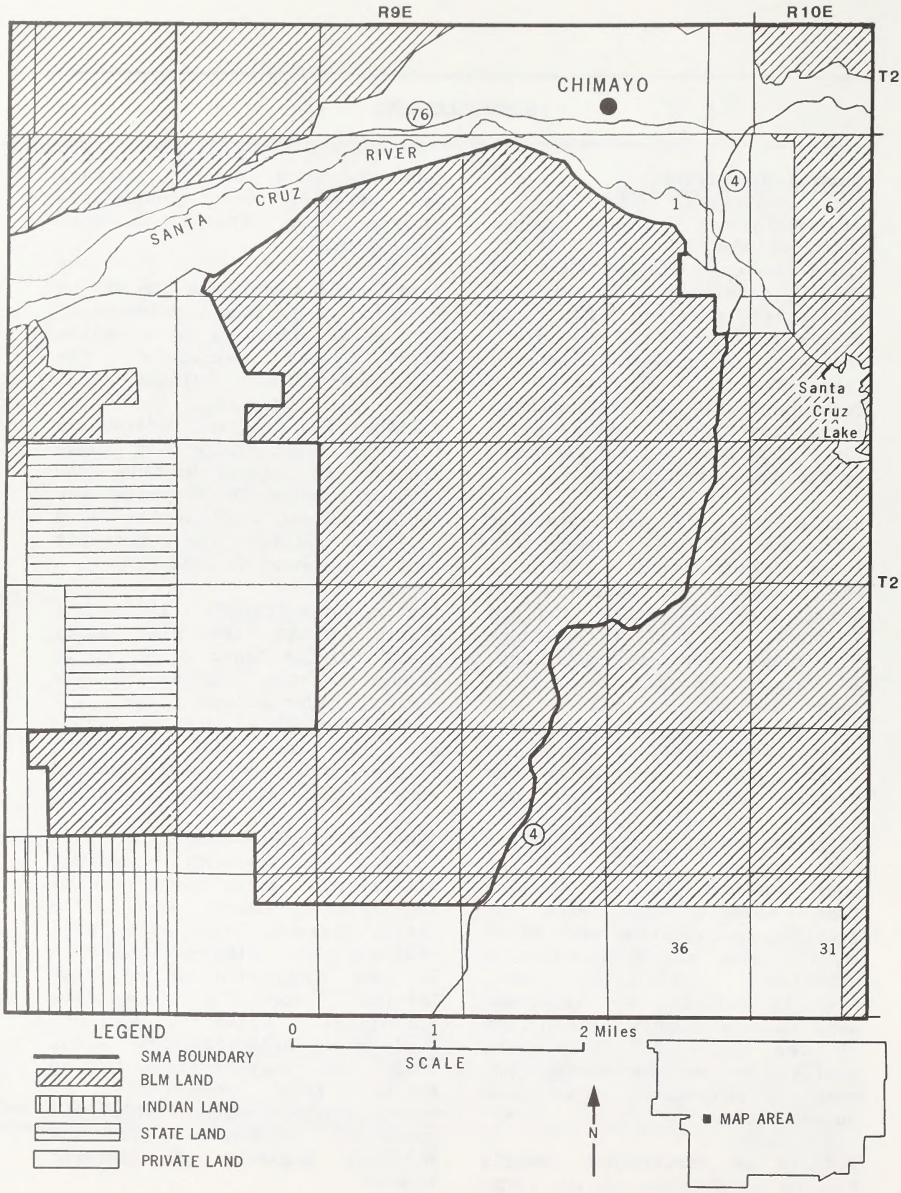
Within this SMA are extensive exposures of the three most fossiliferous subdivisions of the Tesuque Formation, the Nambe, the Skull Ridge, and the Pojoaque, all part of the Santa Fe Group. Fossils found here are almost entirely mammalian. They include a mixture of essentially modern forms, primitive representatives of some modern groups, and unfamiliar mammals which are now extinct. Fossils of some reptiles, plants, and birds are also present. Camels are the most abundant mammals, ranging from animals the size of gazelles to some that were close to the size and proportion of giraffes. Primitive deer, deerlike animals, and antelopes were also abundant. The horses of the Santa Fe Group were similar to modern horses but smaller, possessing three toes on each foot.

Fossils of carnivorous mammals are not as abundant as the large herbivores, but are highly diverse. Some forms were similar to modern dogs, foxes, cats, raccoons, badgers, skunks, and weasels, but groups now extinct were present as well (Kues, 1982).

This fossil record and the strata in which it is found is important because it allows us to visualize with great accuracy the environment these animals lived in. In addition, the type sections (or original references) for the Skull Ridge and Nambe Members are located in this SMA. Although Santa Fe deposits are typically restricted to the Santa Fe-Espanola-Abiqui area, they are best represented in this SMA.

The concentrated collecting effort within the past sixty years in the Santa Fe Group is unique in the history of New Mexico paleontology, and has established this area as having one of the most abundant, diverse, and continuously sampled late Tertiary faunas in the world.

Other resources within this SMA include livestock grazing, wildlife, archaeology, and recreation. There are three active grazing allotments with seasonal use. Within the SMA is an area identified as potential habitat for a candidate Endangered plant species, Pediocactus papyracanthus. Also, there are many cultural sites dating from prehistoric to historic times, some of which are potential candidates for the National Register of Historic Places.



MAP 5-8

SOMBRILLO

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Objective: This SMA is relatively undeveloped as far as surface disturbing activities are concerned. Because the area is scientifically important it will be managed to protect and preserve paleontological resources.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Recreational ORV use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

2. Complete a management plan for the Sombrillo ACEC.

3. Any fires in this SMA will be fully suppressed.

SABINOSO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description:
This extremely rugged country encompasses 32,000 acres of which 15,760 acres are a Wilderness Study Area (see Map 5-9). The habitat is primarily a pinon-juniper/mixed-shrub community with considerable and sometimes unique plant diversity. The riparian bottoms are primarily privately owned and in most cases are overgrazed, while the steep slopes are usually under utilized by cattle. The riparian zones are typically characterized by cottonwoods, while the open areas are dominated by blue gramma. Wildlife in the area is quite diverse, corresponding to the vegetative and land form diversity. Two exotic species, barbary sheep and Siberian ibex, occur in the area but in low population numbers. Native game species include mule deer and turkey, but are also below population potential. The land ownership pattern in this SMA is very complex and as a result there is no legal access to public lands.

Management Objectives:
Management objectives will vary, depending on the outcome of the possible wilderness designation. The primary objectives will be to improve wildlife habitat and improve recreation and hunting opportunities.

Management Prescriptions:

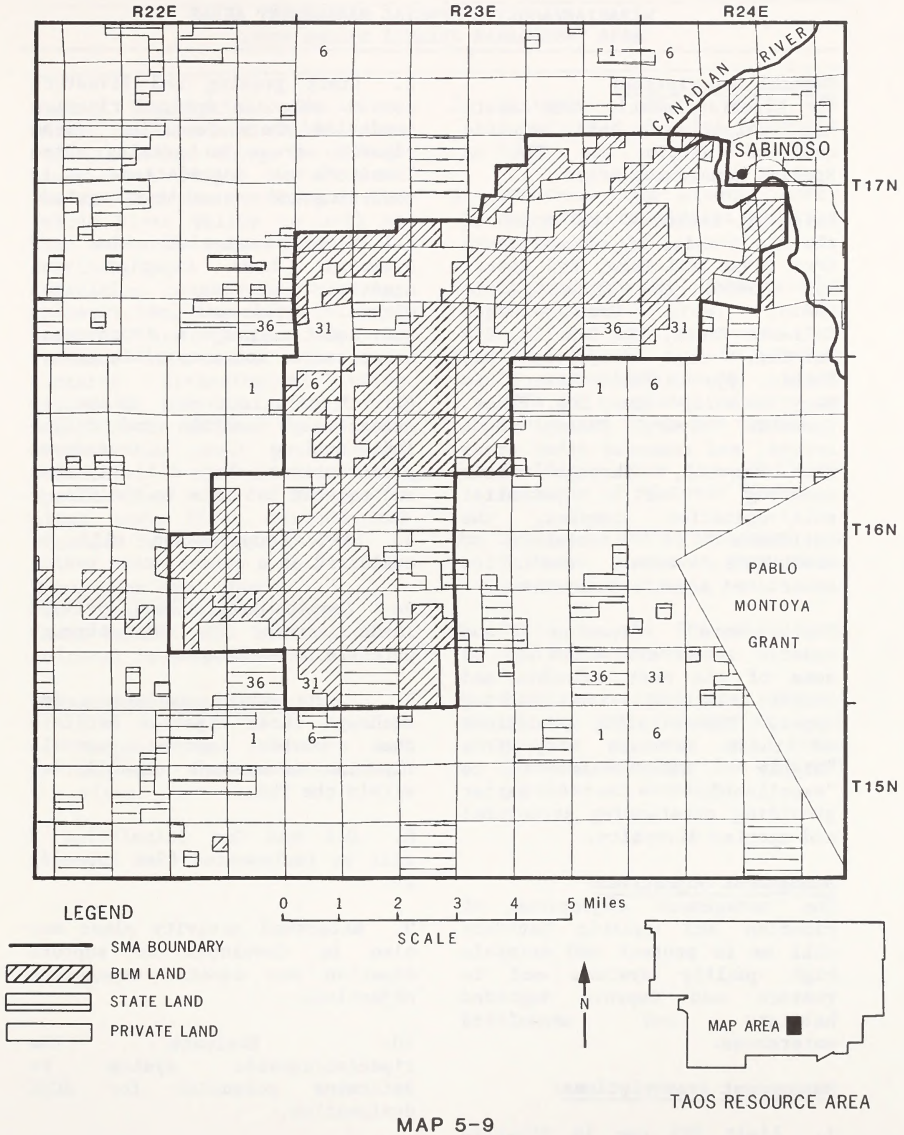
1. Limit vegetative manipulation to those actions that would improve wildlife habitat.

2. Limit grazing in riparian zones.

3. Acquire legal access to the area.

4. Fires in this SMA will have limited suppression.

5. Gather basic inventory data on the area such as wildlife, vegetation, and geology, and encourage research on the natural resources.



MAP 5-9
SABINOSO
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

RIPARIAN/AQUATIC SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

General Description:
The Riparian/Aquatic SMA treats all riparian and aquatic habitats within the TRA as Special Management Areas.

This SMA includes the areas of the Rio Grande, Rio Chama, Santa Cruz River and Lake, Red River, Rio Hondo, Rio Embudo, Rio Medio, Ocate Creek, Agua Caliente Creek, Rio Cebolla, Rio Nutrias, Rio Frijoles, Rio Pueblo, Ojo Caliente River, Rio San Antonio, Rio Los Pinos, Canadian River, Canada Agua Arroyo, and numerous other areas that reveal, through their existing or potential soil/vegetation complex, the influence of surface or subsurface water and its associated aquatic ecosystem.

Southwestern riparian and aquatic zones are known to be some of the most valuable and limited of wildlife habitat types. The existing conditions of these habitats vary from "highly deteriorated" to "excellent", the latter providing outstanding structural and species diversity.

Management Objectives:
The management objectives of riparian and aquatic habitats will be to protect and maintain high quality systems and to restore and improve degraded habitats and associated watersheds.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Limit ORV use in riparian zones to designated recreation areas.

2. Limit grazing and livestock use to maintain desired riparian condition where feasible. Close riparian areas to grazing where livestock degradation is occurring and cannot be mitigated.

3. Mineral material sales are excluded from riparian and aquatic systems. Initiate mineral withdrawal on riparian and aquatic project improvement areas and on non-compatible ACECs.

4. Prepare activity plans to extensively describe and define individual management prescriptions for all riparian and aquatic habitats in the TRA.

5. Fire suppression will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

6. Acquire state and private lands within the SMA through purchase or exchange.

7. BLM will evaluate for exchange those riparian habitats that would improve overall riparian management capabilities within the TRA.

8. Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 will be implemented (See Appendix A).

9. Watershed activity plans may also be developed to support riparian and aquatic management objectives.

10. Evaluate the riparian/aquatic system to determine potential for ACEC designation.

LOWER EMBUDO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

General Description: The Lower Embudo SMA consists of 482 acres and is located along the Embudo River near Dixon, New Mexico. The SMA includes portions of the Embudo River Valley as well as flat terraces and rolling hills overlooking the river. Vegetation ranges from riparian species along the river to sage, grasses, and juniper on the terraces and hills. The area contains archeological sites dating to the Coalition Period (AD 1200-AD 1325). These sites include two small pueblos and associated agricultural and special use areas. The pueblo sites were first visited and recorded by H.P. Mera in 1933.

Management Objective:
The management objective for Lower Embudo will be to protect cultural resource values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete an inventory and record the archeological sites.
2. Implement Oil and Gas Stipulation 3 (See Appendix A).
3. Withdraw from mineral entry and close to mineral material sales.
4. Exclude grazing from pueblo ruins.
5. Limit access to the pueblos to authorized users. Limit ORVs in remainder of area to designated roads and trails.
6. Nominate area to National Register of Historic Places.
7. Develop and implement a Cultural Resources Management Plan.
8. Fires in the SMA will have limited suppression.
9. Complete a cadastral survey of the SMA boundaries, and acquire private and state lands within the SMA through purchase or exchange.

BLACK MESA ACEC

General Description: The Black Mesa ACEC contains approximately 5460 acres and is located along the north rim of Black Mesa, running west to the Ojo Caliente River (See Map 5-10). The mesa slopes are very steep and are composed of basalt boulders embedded in sandy soils. Vegetation on the slopes includes pinon, juniper, sagebrush, rabbit brush, apache plume, snakeweed, mountain mahogany, blue grama, galletta, sand-drop seed, and a variety of other species. The rolling uplands below the mesa slopes are primarily a blue grama/juniper community.

This area was nominated by the Nature Conservancy for special management because several species of rare and endemic plants occur in these habitats, including Astragalus cyaneus, Astragalus puniceus var. gertrudis, Aletes spp., and Pediocactus papyracanthus.

The Black Mesa ACEC is important because of its unique plant community. Several species of rare and endemic plants occur within this area. Two of the four psecies that occur in this area have the type locality descriptions based on populations occurring within this SMA. Management of this area would be aimed at maintaining these species.

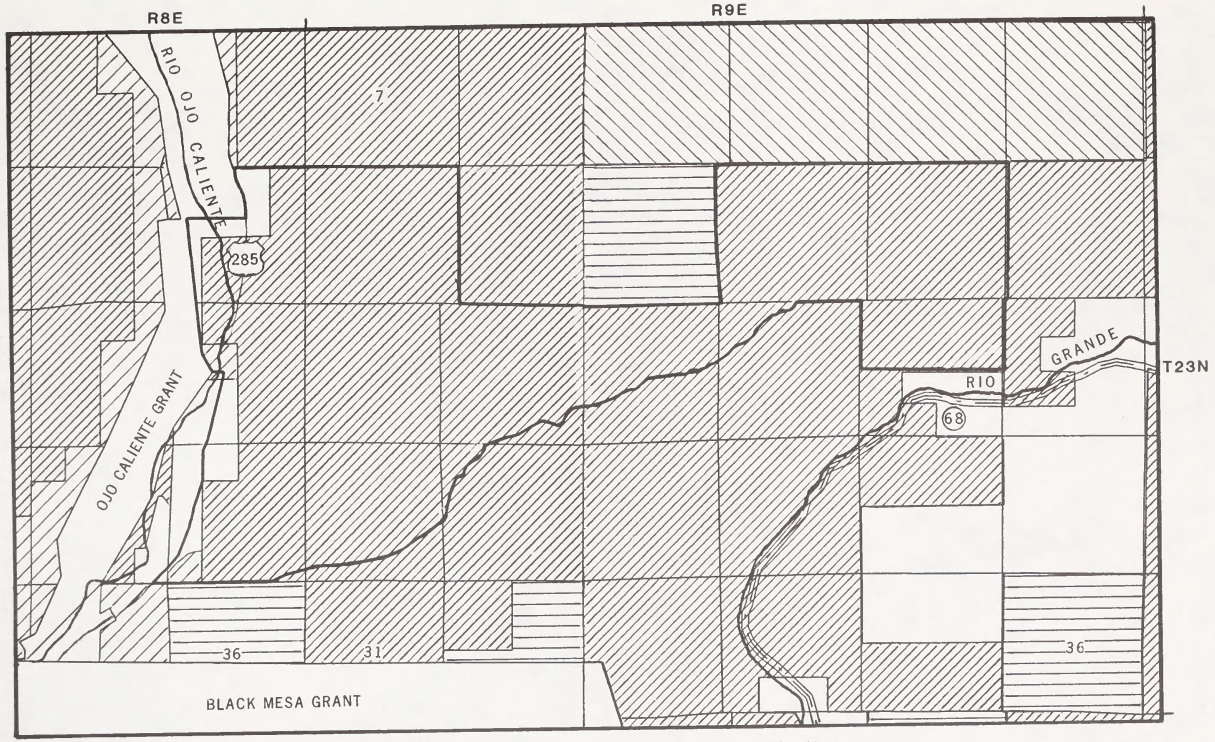
Management Objectives:
Management of this area would be aimed at maintaining or improving the stability of vegetative populations. Monitoring studies will be established to determine direction of trend. The area will also be made abailable for reintroduction of species so as to avoid their possible listing.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Complete a management plan for the ACEC..

2. Construct grazing exclosures to monitor the effects of grazing and determine trends.

3. Adjust stocking rates and/or season of use to improve habitat conditions based on monitoring studies.



MAP 5-10
BLACK MESA
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Section 6

LAND OWNERSHIP, ADJUSTMENTS AND EASEMENT ACQUISITION

LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS AND EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS

This section lists proposed land ownership adjustment actions and easements needed to facilitate management of Bureau programs in the Taos Resource Area. The actions are organized as follows: (1) state lands identified for acquisition, (2) private lands identified for acquisition, BLM land identified for disposal (shown on map 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4), (4) a list of withdrawn public lands whose withdrawn status has been reviewed during the last five years,, and (5) easements identified for acquisition where they are necessary.

STATE LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR ACQUISITION BY EXCHANGE

1. San Antonio SMA,T29N R8E, Sec. 2
   T29N R9E, Sec. 36
   T29N R10E, Sec. 16, 22(P), 32
   T29N R11E, Sec. 16
   T30N R8E, Sec. 36
   T30N R9E, Sec. 16, 32(P), 36
   T30N R11E, Sec. 32(P)
   T31N R8E, Sec. 2
   T31N R9E, Sec. 16(P)
   T32N R8E, Sec. 36
   T32N R9E, Sec. 32

2. Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA
   T29N R12E, Sec. 32(P), 16(P)

3. Ojo Caliente SMA
   T23N R8E, Sec. 2
   T24N R8E, Sec. 36

4. Warm Springs SMA
   T23N R10E, Sec. 36(P)
   T23N R11E, Sec. 2(P), 16, 32
   T24N R11E, Sec. 36

PRIVATE LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR ACQUISITION

1. San Antonio SMA

T29N R8E, Sec. 1, 11, 12 ALL

T29N R9E, Sec. 5, 6, 7 ALL

Sec. 8
- W½
- S½SW¼
- NW¼SE¼

Sec. 12
- W½
- S½SE¼

Sec. 13
- W½

Sec. 22 ALL

Sec. 23 (P)

T29N R10E, Sec. 17
- S½

Sec. 18, ALL

Sec. 19, ALL

Sec. 21, ALL

Sec. 22, SW¼

Sec. 28, S½
- W½NE¼
- NW¼SE¼

Sec. 30, ALL

Sec. 32, S½
- W½NE¼
- W½NW¼

2. Wild Rivers Recreation Area SMA

T28N R12E, Sec. 7 W½

T29N R12E, Sec. 18 NW¼SW¼

Sec. 19 S½

Sec. 30 NE¼

NE¼NW¼

SE¼NW¼

NW¼NW¼

3. Rio Chama SMA
   T26N R2E, Sec. 9
   Lots 1, 2, 3, 4
   T27N R2E, Sec. 27 W½E½
   N½NW¼
   SE¼NW¼
   SW¼
   Sec. 28, S½NW¼
   SW¼
   SE¼
   Sec. 33, W½

4. Ojo Caliente SMA

5. Warm Springs SMA
   T23N R11E, Sec. 17, ALL
   Sec. 19
   That portion within Patent No. 33276
   Sec. 20
   That portion within Patent No. 33276
   Sec. 21, NW¼
   SW¼
   SE¼
   N½NE¼
   Sec. 29
   That portion within Patent No. 1018121 and 30820005

6. Racecourse SMA
   T23N R9E, Sec. 24, Lot
   E¾
   SE¼NW¼
   S½SW¼
   Tr.A
   Sec. 23, Tr. A
   SE¼
   NE¼SW¼
   Sec. 34, SW¼SE¼
   SE¼SW¼
   T23N R10E, Sec. 1, Lots 5, 6
   SW¼SE¼
   Sec. 11, Lots 1, 2, 10
   S½NE¼
   Sec. 12, Lots 1, 2
   Sec. 14, ALL
   Sec. 15, SW¼
   SHC 4472 tr. 1
   SHC 1109
   SHC 4098
   SHC 489 (149276)
   SHC 489 (149278)
   SHC 488 tr. 1
   SHC 488 tr. 1
   SHC 488
   SHC 2143

Sec. 16, Lots 1, 2
SHC 966 tr. 6
SHC 2143
SHC 1536
Sec. 19, Lots 3, 4, 13, 30, 31, 32, 34, 38
SHC 3266
SHC 388
SHC 969
SHC 561 tr. 3
SHC 559 tr. 1
SHC 556 tr. 2
SHC 560 tr. 2
SHC 792 tr. 2
SHC 792 (182952)
SHC 792 (181956)
SHC 966
SHC 380 tr. 3
SHC 386
SHC 386
SHC 389
SHC 382 tr. 1
SHC 382 tr. 2
SHC 382 tr. 3
SHC 383
SHC 494 tr. 1
SHC 561 tr. 1
SHC 559 tr. 3
SHC 556 tr. 1
SHC 560 tr. 1
SHC 561 tr. 2
SHC 968 tr. 1
SHC 560 tr. 3
SHC 560 tr. 4
SHC 968 tr. 2
Sec. 20, Lots 1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SHC 1111 tr. 3
SHC 1120
SHC 4472
SHC 1536
SHC 801 tr. 1
SHC 801 tr. 2
SHC 801 tr. 3
SHC 1000 (181959)
SHC 798 Boltou tr.
SHC 798 Romero tr.
SHC 1121 Borrego tr.
SHC 1121 Archuleta tr.
SHC 561 tr. 4
SHC 1121 Royabal tr.
SHC 560 tr. 4
SHC 968 tr. 2
SHC 556 tr. 3
SHC 559 tr. 2

Sec. 21, SHC 1536
SHC 1111 tr. 3
SHC 1120 (1128028)
SHC 966 tr. 1
SHC 349 (446)
SHC 355 (457)
SHC 402 (444)
SHC 403 (443)
SHC 488 (447)
SHC 487 tr. 1
SHC 4
SHC 490 Romero tr. (776673)
SHC 490 Romero tr. (450)
SHC 487 Romero tr. (448)
SHC 487 Ortega tr.
SHC 966 tr. 2
SHC 2143 (181957)
Sec. 22, SHC 4098 (449)
SHC 489 Sanchez tr.
SHC 489 Romero tr.
SHC 488 tr. 2
SHC 488 (181954)
SHC 2143
Lot 1
T23N R11E, Sec. 6, tr. 4
T24 N R22E, Sec. 32, SHC 5394 (477467)
SHC 5298 tr. 3
SHC 5394 (477458)
SHC 5292 tr. 2
SHC 5287
SHC 5345 tr. 1, 2, 3
SHC 5253 tr. 1, 2
SHC 5296
SHC 5299 tr. 1, 2
SHC 5347 tr. 4, 6
SHC 5286 tr. 2
SHC 5288 tr. 2
SHC 5346
SHC 5349 tr. 3
SHC 5291 tr. 2, 3
SHC 5348 tr. 2
SHC 5285 to. 3, 4
SHC 5297
SHC 5293 tr. 1, 2, 3, 4

7. Pueblo Quemado SMA
T21N R10E, Sec. 33 (unsurveyed portion adjacent to pueblo).

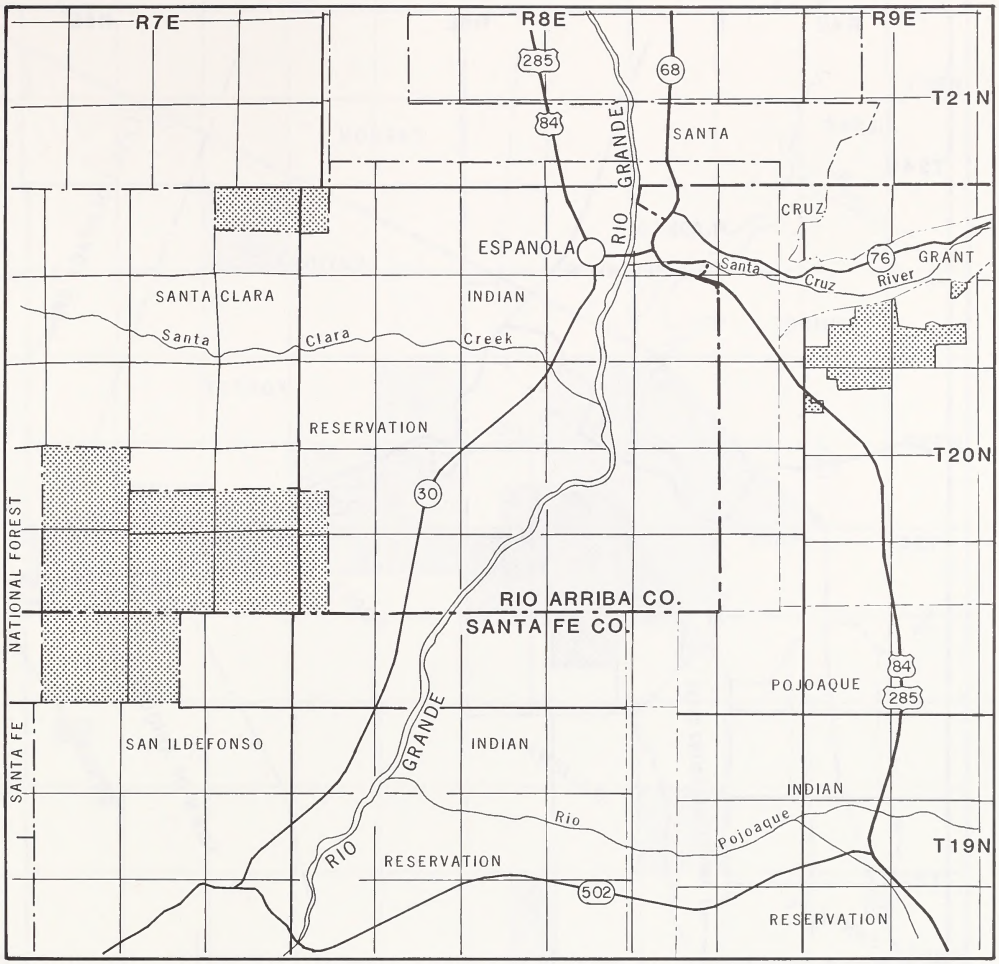
List of Public Withdrawals Reviewed in Last Five Years

Recommended Withdrawal No Revocation	Acres	Agency	Acres for
NM 23682	17		
NM 0557750	640	Corps of Engineers	300
NM 035384	560	Corps of Engineers	180

*NOTE: This plan fully addresses the issues of land tenure adjustment in sufficient detail to adjust existing classifications and withdrawals and take other administrative action related to land-use allowances and restrictions. Land classification completed under the Classification & Multiple-Use Act of 1964 will be modified, continued, or terminated to be consistent with the plan as authorized by Sec. 202 of FLPMA. Withdrawals will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 204 of FLPMA and adjustments shall be made consistent with the needs of the withdrawing agency and within the guidelines of this plan.

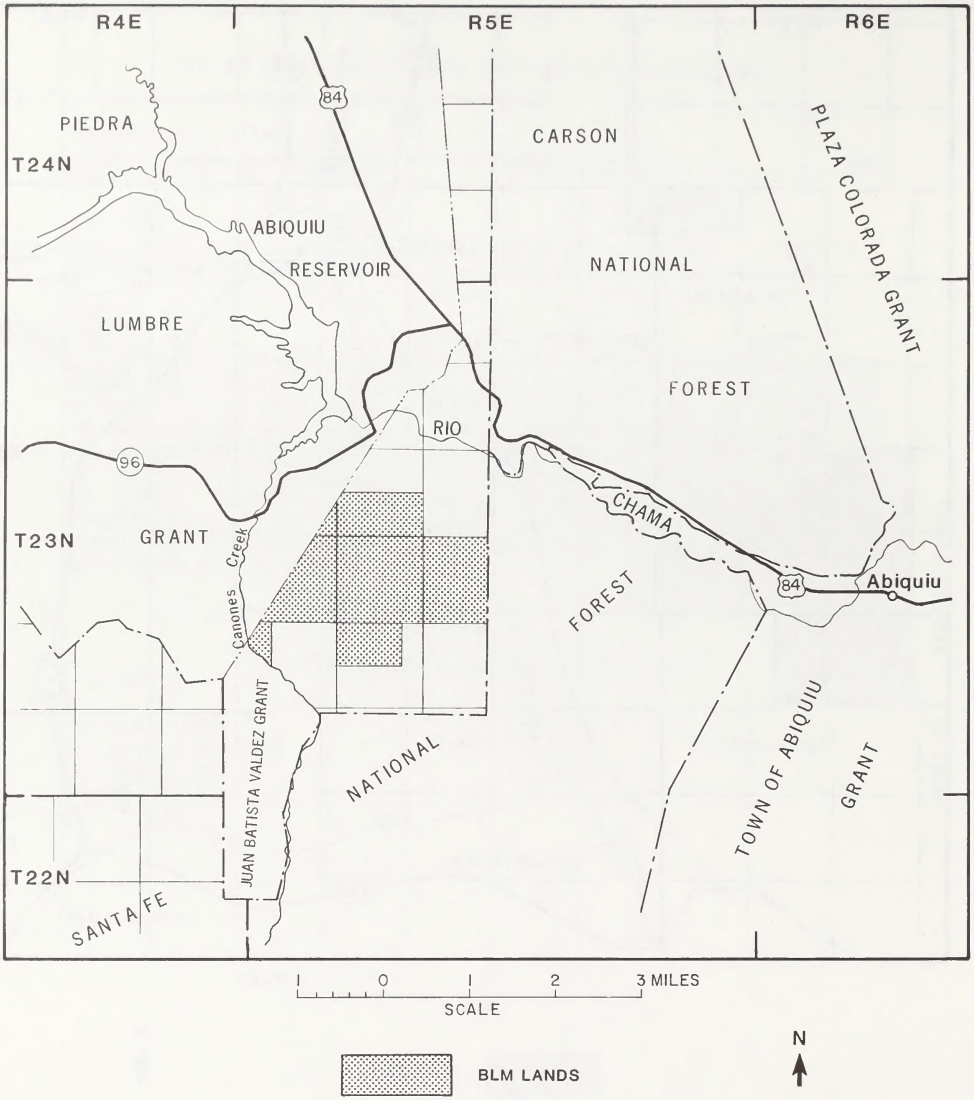
Easements Identified for Acquisition

Ku Pueblo SMA
La Cienega Mesa SMA
San Lazaro SMA
Sabinoso SMA



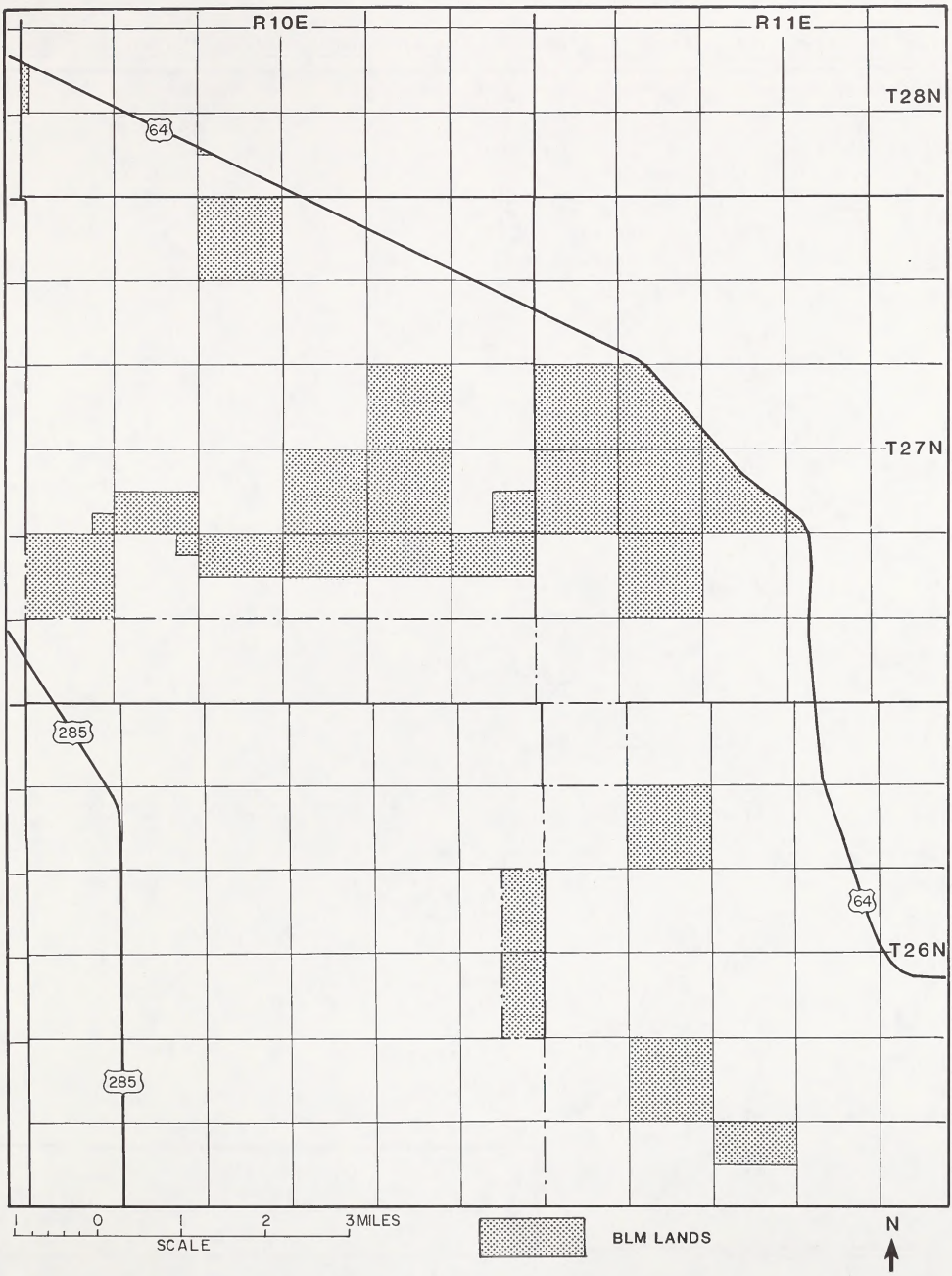
MAP 6-1

LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL



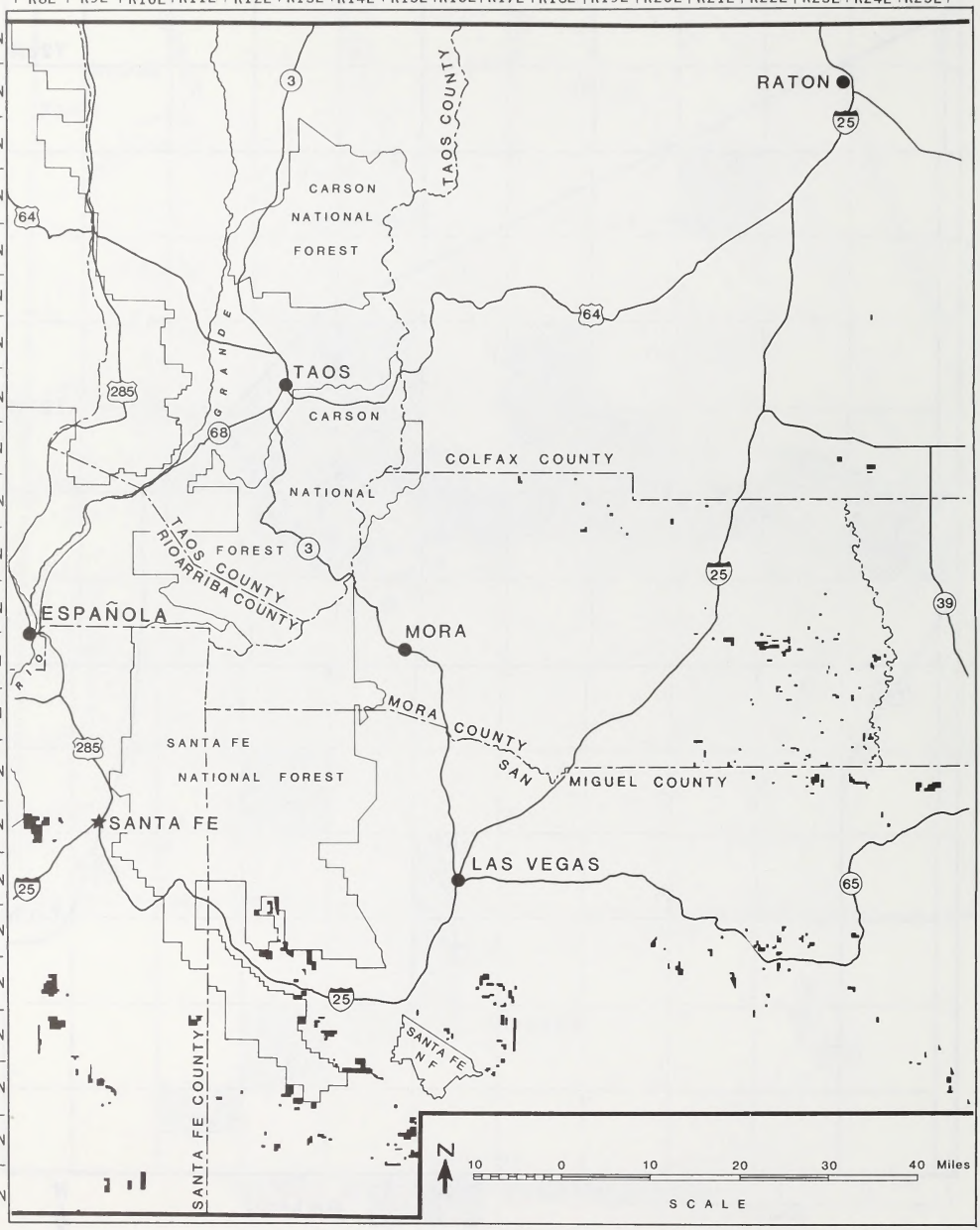
MAP 6-2

LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL



MAP 6-3

LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL



MAP 6-4

LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR DISPOSAL

Appendices

APPENDIX A

OIL AND GAS STIPULATIONS

Minor Constraints

1. The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the BLM for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

   After the BLM has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands and on request of the lessee/operator, the BLM will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

   (Legal land description to lot and/or quarter, quarter section).

   Reason for Restriction:

   Duration of Restriction (year-round, month(s))

   Prior to acceptance of this stipulation the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the BLM for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation. This stipulation may be waived with approval, in writing, from the BLM District Manager.

Note: Stipulation No. 1 is not exclusionary but it notifies the lessee/operator that the described lands contain special values and that these values must be considered in the proposed operating plan.

Major Constraints

2. No occupancy other activity on the surface of (legal subdivision) is allowed under this lease. This stipulation may be waived with approval, in writing, from BLM District Manager.

3. No occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed within ____ feet of the (Road, Trail, River, Creek, Canal, etc.). This distance may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the BLM District Manager. This stipulation may be waived with approval, in writing, from the BLM District Manager.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

INTRODUCTION

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) (BLM Manual 8320) provides a framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation opportunity environments. As conceived, the ROS has application to all lands, regardless of ownership or jurisdiction.

Recreation opportunities, according to this system, can be expressed in terms of three principal components: The activity, the setting, and the experience. Possible mixes of activities, settings, and recreation experience have been arranged along a spectrum, or continuum, ranging from "primitive" to "urban". Rural and Urban recreation opportunities are therefore not relevant to the public land in the TRA and are not discussed in this Appendix.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The ROS management objectives are defined below.

Primitive Zone

The primitive zone is managed to be essentially free from evidence of people, and from human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized vehicle use within the area is not permitted. The area is managed to maintain an extremely high probability of "experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of others" (not more than 3-6 group encounters per day), as well as independence, closeness to nature, self-reliance through the application of backcountry skills, an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk.

Backcountry use levels and management of renewable resources are dependent on maintaining natural ecosystems and primitive experience levels. The consumption of renewable resources is subject to the protection of backcountry recreational values. Grazing is allowed, subject to restrictions placed on the uses of motorized vehicles. Recreational activities occurring in this zone include backpacking, hiking, camping, swimming, horseback riding, and nature study.

The frequency of BLM employees contact with recreationists is very low.

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized

Semi-primitive non-motorized areas are managed to be largely free from the evidence of people, and human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Limited facilities for the administration of livestock and visitor use are allowed, but off-site administration is encouraged. Project designs should stress protection of natural values. Areas are managed to maintain a good probability of experiencing minimum contact with others, self-

reliance through the application of backcountry skills, and an environment that offers a degree or risk and challenge.

Backcountry use levels and management of renewable resources are dependent on maintaining ecosystems comparable to naturally-occurring ecosystems. The consumption of renewable resources is subject to the protection of backcountry recreational values. Grazing is allowed, subject to restrictions placed on use of motorized vehicles. Facilities associated with grazing are limited to those necessary for maintaining existing numbers, adequate distribution, and seasons of use, consistent with AMPs. Recreational activities occurring in this zone include climbing, backpacking, hiking, picnicking, viewing scenery, camping, horseback riding, and nature study.

The frequency of BLM-employee contact with recreationists is low.

Semi-Primitive Motorized

Semi-primitive motorized areas are managed to provide a predominantly natural or naturally-appearing environment. Evidence of people and human, restrictions and controls are present, but subtle. Motorized vehicle use is permitted. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. On-site interpretive facilities, low standard roads and trails, trailheads, and signing should stress the natural environment in their design and should be the minimum necessary to achieve objectives.

The consumption of natural resources is allowed. In the review of plans of operations, utility corridors, rights-of-way, and other surface disturbing projects, effort is taken to reduce their impacts on the natural environment. Recreational activities occurring in this zone include car camping, ORV touring, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and viewing scenery.

The frequency of BLM-employee contact with visitors is low-to-moderate on trials and primitive roads.

Roaded Natural

Roaded natural areas are managed to provide a naturally-appearing environment with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of people. Motorized use is permitted.

Concentration of users is moderate, with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Development of facilities for motorized use provided for in any proposed construction standards and design of facilities.

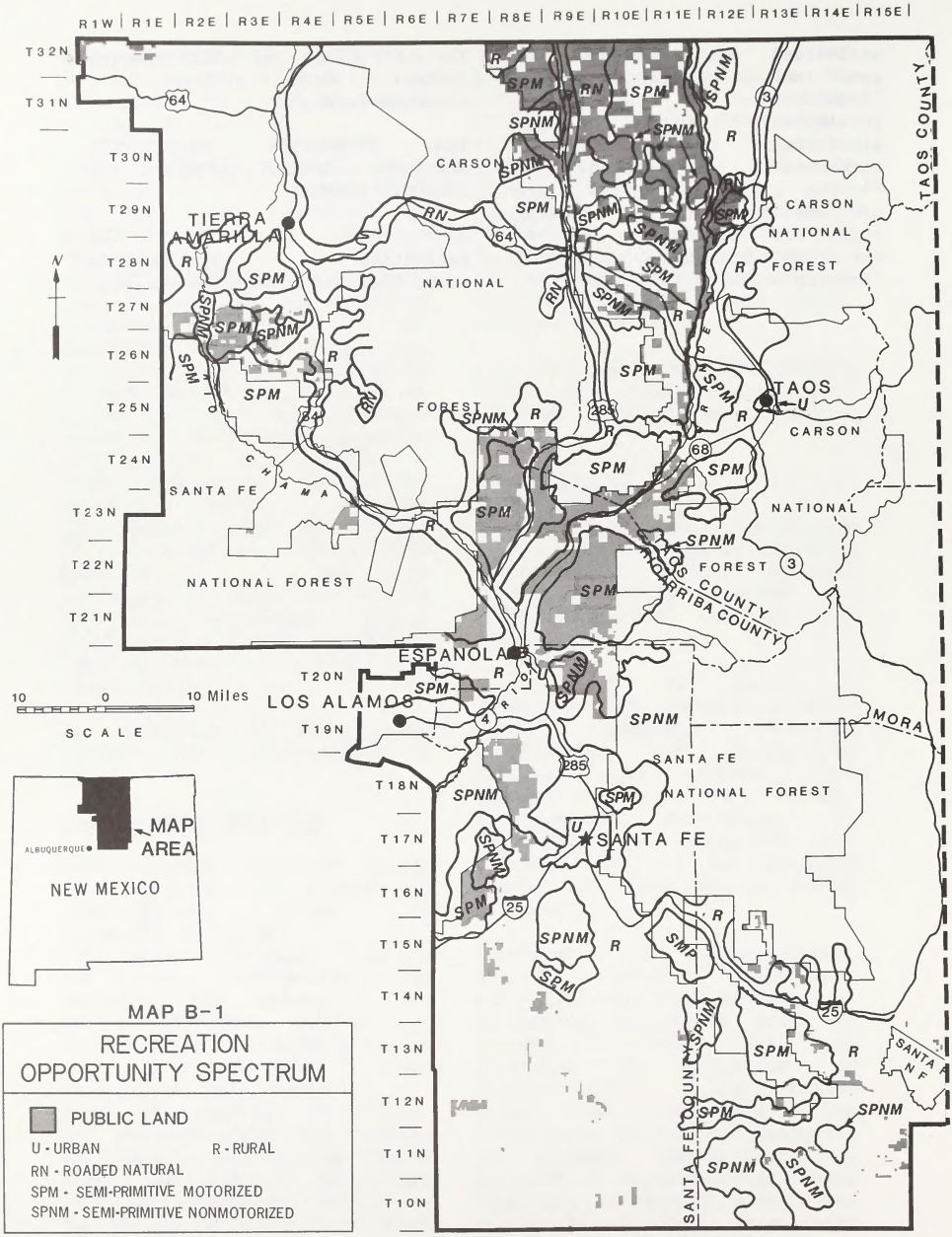
Placement of rights-of-way, utility corridors, management facilities, and other surface-disturbing activities would be favored in this zone over placement in primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized zones when applicable. The consumption of natural resources is allowed, except at any proposed or developed trailheads, developed recreation areas, and geological features interpreted as major themes. Recreational

activities occurring in this zone include organized camping (developed recreational facilities), ORV touring, picnicking, trailer camping, rockhounding, nature study, and viewing of historical and prehistoric resources. Staging areas for backcountry use and for interpretation of geological features occur in this zone.

The frequency of BLM-employee contact with visitors is moderate-to-high.

TRA RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM: CURRENT INVENTORY AND PROPOSED CHANGES

Map B-1 illustrates the recreation opportunities currently inventoried for the TRA.


R1W | R1E | R2E | R3E | R4E | R5E | R6E | R7E | R8E | R9E | R10E | R11E | R12E | R13E | R14E | R15E
T32N
T31N
T30N
T29N
T28N
T27N
T26N
T25N
T24N
T23N
T22N
T21N
T20N
T19N
T18N
T17N
T16N
T15N
T14N
T13N
T12N
T11N
T10N
TIERRA AMARILLA
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TAOS COUNTY
TAOS
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY
ESPANOLA
LOS ALAMOS
MORA
SANTA FE
SANTA FE COUNTY
SANTA FE N F
SPM
SPNM
RN
R
U
10 0 10 Miles
SCALE
MAP AREA
ALBUQUERQUE
NEW MEXICO
MAP B-1
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM
PUBLIC LAND
U - URBAN
R - RURAL
RN - ROADED NATURAL
SPM - SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED
SPNM - SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED

APPENDIX C

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DETERMINATION OF VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASS RATINGS

Ratings from scenic quality classes, visual sensitivity levels, and distance zones are combined to form VRM classes. A VRM class identifies the suggested degrees of human modification that should be allowed in a certain landscape (See below).

Scenic quality classes are rated for landform, water, color, vegetation, intrusions, and uniqueness. These elements are combined and the area is classified as Class A, unique, outstanding features; Class B, outstanding features common to the physiographic region; or Class C, features common to the physiographic region.

Sensitivity levels are determined on the basis of frequency of travel through an area, use of area, and public knowledge of the area. These elements are rated and the area is assigned a high, medium, or low sensitivity level.

Distance zones are placed in three categories: foreground/ middleground zone, background zone, and seldom seen zone. The foreground/middleground zone is closest to the viewer and requires more attention and consideration in management decisions, because of the great detail that can be seen in the landscape. The background and seldom seen zones are seen in less detail by the viewer, and most impacts blend with the landscape, because of the distance.

CRITERIA FOR VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES

This portion of the appendix defines the Visual Resource Management classes and how visual class ratings are developed.

Class I Class I is assigned to all special areas, e.g., Wilderness, wild sections of national wild and scenic rivers and other congressionally and administratively designated areas where decisions have been made to preserve a natural landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class II Landscapes with Class A scenery quality, or Class B scenery quality in the foreground/middleground zone with high visual sensitivity. The level of change to the characteristic land-

scape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristics landscape.

Class III Landscapes with Class B scenery quality and high visual sensitivity in the background zone, or with Class B scenery quality and medium visual sensitivity in the foreground/middleground zone or with Class C scenery of high visual sensitivity in the foreground/middleground zone. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV Landscapes with Class B scenery quality and high visual sensitivity in the seldom seen visual zone, or with Class B scenery quality and medium or low visual sensitivity in the background or seldom seen zones, or with Class C scenery quality (except with high sensitivity in the foreground/middleground zone). The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

APPENDIX D

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS DETERMINATION

INTRODUCTION

A total of 22 ATs were identified in the inventory phase. During the initial interdisciplinary team evaluation, additional access was identified as a high priority need in 5 tracts, moderate need in 7 tracts, and a low priority in 10 tracts.

Detailed transportation plans will be developed and implemented for each AT based on the priority of the tract; those AT with a high priority rating will be completed first.

Map D-1 shows the AT location and priority ranking of each AT in the Resource Area. (Tract 1 having the highest priority and Tract 11 having the lowest priority).

ROADS

Hundreds of miles of roads located on public lands within the TRA that are subject to BLm jurisdiction. As a general rule, these road systems are adequately designed and are maintained to serve their intended purpose. However, there are many roads which have been improperly constructed and maintained, and which thereby, contribute to erosion.

ROAD STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Road standards and implementation procedures will be in accordance with BLM engineering standards.

Although most recent road construction and/or improvement activity in the TRA relates to mineral development, these road standards were developed to apply to all resource development, management, and protection related activities.

Implementation of road standards will involve the following steps for existing roads:

1. Inventory including identification of roads that do not meet Bureau Manual 9113 standards;

2. Functional classification of existing roads that would comprise a logical transportation network for public land management;

3. Contact with resource users to determine which roads are needed;

4. Assign road maintenance or rehabilitation responsibility to BLM or other parties, where appropriate;

5. Initiate appropriate action to begin bringing substandard roads to Bureau standards and specification;

6. Abandon and reclaim unneeded roads.

All new roads constructed in the TRA will be formally authorized, constructed and maintained in accordance with the BLM Manual 9113 and road standards described

in this final policy. New road development standards will be implemented as follows:

1. Applications for new construction must contain adequate information to enable BLM to determine proposed location and assign a functional classification;

2. Adjudication of application, which includes environmental analysis preparation, comparison with RMP decisions to determine plan compliance and determine if reroutes are needed;

3. Authorization, which includes standards and/or specification for design and construction of the road(s), assignment of maintenance responsibility and future reclamation requirements that apply when the road is abandoned, or denial of application.

The following extract from BLM Manual 9113 explains the purpose of functional classification of road systems, which will be implemented by BLM in the TRA:

"FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION. The method and terminology recommended by the National Highway Functional Classification Study of 1968 provides guidelines for classifying Bureau roads. The Bureau has added resource roads as a category in addition to those identified in the 1968 study (as recommended by an interagency task group study on low-volume road standards, 1976-77). As Bureau roads are predominately low-volume and are generally extensions of, or connectors to State or county systems, an "arterial" category does not apply to Bureau roads.

Bureau roads are classified as follows:

1. Collector Roads. These roads normally provide primary access to large blocks of land, and connect with or are extensions of a public road system. Collector roads accommodate mixed traffic and serve many uses. They generally receive the highest volume of traffic of all the roads in the Bureau road system. User costs, safety, comfort, and travel time are primary road management considerations. Collector roads usually require application of the highest standards used by the Bureau. As a result, they have the potential for creating substantial environmental impacts and often require complex mitigation procedures.

2. Local Roads. These roads normally serve a smaller area than collectors, and connect to collectors or public road systems. Local roads receive lower volumes, carry fewer traffic types, and generally serve fewer uses. User cost, comfort, and travel time are secondary to construction and maintenance cost considerations. Low volume local roads in mountainous terrain, where operating speed is reduced by effort of terrain, where operating speed is reduced by effort of terrain, may be single lane roads with turnouts. Environmental impacts are reduced as steeper grades, sharper curves, and lower design speed that would be permissible on collector roads are allowable.

3. Resource Roads. These roads normally are spur roads that provide point access and connect to local or collector roads.

They carry very low volume and accommodate only one or two types of use. Use restrictions are applied to prevent conflicts between users needed the road and users attracted to the road. The location and design of these roads are governed by environmental compatibility and minimizing Bureau costs, with minimal consideration for user costs, comfort, or travel time."

BLM road policy in BLM Manual 9113 states that road standards may be modified to meet local situations. The major modifications which have been incorporated in these local standards are: (1) design by a professional engineer will only be required for high standard (collector) roads or construction in mountainous or steep terrain; (2) establishment of local policies regarding temporary and primitive subclass roads within the "resource" functional classification, and (3) the Area Manager may authorize vehicles to drive across country without blading or use primitive roads in dry weather. In some cases other may be minor blading of brush required with the blade three to four inches above natural ground line. This is a temporary type road with intermittent or one-time access. If it is closed after use, water bars and other drainage will be constructed. Primitive roads are existing two-track roads that are created by vehicle traffic for which there are not any engineering standards. In all cases, drainage control will be required to prevent erosion.

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CREDITS

The Core Team

Mike O'Neill -	Team Leader
	Technical Coordinator
	Writer/Editor
	Administrative Assistant

Jenny Archuleta	Administrative Assistant
Millie Rose	Administrative Assistant
M'Lee Beazley	Administrative Assistant
Anna Salas	Administrative Assistant
Marguerite Zoltowski	Administrative Assistant
Rosalie Carter	Administrative Assistant
Myrna Finke	Visual Information Specialist
Emillio Montoya	Cartographic Technician

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Taos Resource Area
P.O. Box 6168
Taos NM 87571-6168

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